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UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

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UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

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OF RELIGION

FIRST QUARTER - 1959

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In Memoriam

A heavy toll has been taken of the U.B.S. with the untimely death, last autumn, of two of its officers.

The **Most Rev. H. W. K. Mowll,** Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, had been elected Vice-President of the U.B.S. as recently as 1957, at the time of the last Council Meeting, in Brazil. He had had an unbroken connection with the B.F.B.S. in Australia over the past 25 years, having been appointed President of the New South Wales Auxiliary in 1934. He was also made a Vice-President of the B.F.B.S. (London) in 1947. Archbishop Mowll represented his own Society, the B.F.B.S. in Australia, in the early days of the U.B.S., at the Council meeting in Dunblane in 1948, and his interest in and sympathy for the aims and activities of the "world fellowship of Bible Societies" was always keen and active.

The connection of **Premanand Mahanty** with Bible Society work goes back many years, to the time when he became a member of the Calcutta Bible Society Auxiliary, while still Principal of St. Paul's College. In 1948 he became first Indian General Secretary of the Bible Society of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, succeeding the Rev. Dr. J. S. M. Hooper and Bishop Sinker. No one else could have been better qualified for that difficult task. Premanand Mahanty had the warmth of personality and the simplicity—and the authority too—which create confidence, arouse sympathy and encourage fellowship and co-operation. With an unflagging energy he visited his Auxiliaries, created new ones, searched with tenacity and endless patience for the best qualified secretaries for them. When he began his service with the national Society everything had to be organised at the new headquarters in Bangalore : the production and distribution machinery had to be coordinated and strengthened all over India ; translation and revision problems needed full attention ; promotion among the Indian churches had to be developed.

But in addition to all these practical qualifications, needed for such tasks, P. Mahanty was filled with a deep and infectious missionary zeal, and endowed with a dynamic and challenging vision of the things which needed to be done if his Society was to fulfil the service it was called to render. Indeed, his vision reached far beyond the borders of India.

He saw himself and his Society along with all the other Societies as partners in a greater field, a greater task. As he wrote in one of his last letters: "Our task is one and indivisible. The resources for this global task are His. They are only

entrusted to the different Societies as stewards, and all these resources have to be increasingly regarded as one and utilised for the common task". This was his great vision; this is the message he leaves to us to put into practice.

O.B.

An Appreciation

When I travelled out to Brazil last year in the company of Premanand Mahanty, I enjoyed sitting with him on board ship, facing the open sea and the setting sun. He had a close contact, one felt, with the infinite, as symbolised in the view before us, and he had only to take from his pocket that other source of infinite power—the Sacred Book—to become personally part of the majestic view.

He possessed a broad outlook and a sound critical mind, even when he was fired with the vision of some Bible project. When you discussed some acute problem with him, he kept calm, produced the facts and weighed them, then gave his judgment and was ready to exchange views. It is that wisdom, together with audacity and vision, which made him loved by and inspiring to all of us .... His ability to speak on behalf of Asian people, combined with a world outlook and objectivity, made him invaluable in the present evolution of world affairs, not least those of the UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES. We have lost a man, a worker and a leader. Let us praise God for the gift of P. Mahanty, and may his passing serve to call others to join our ranks. The Bible needs them!

EIVIND BERGGRAV.

The above from the Rt. Rev. Bishop Eivind Berggrav, consists of extracts from a longer appreciation which reached London after the *Bulletin* had been set up in type and much of the factual information he gave had been incorporated in the preceding notes.

Ways and Means in the Norwegian Bible Society

The article by Mr. Hauge consists of extracts from his address at the Scandinavian Regional Conference, 1958.

I. Developing Missionary Activity

Alf Hauge

THE QUESTION PUT TO ME WAS: How has the Norwegian Bible Society, which ten years ago was merely working for the distribution of Scriptures at home, managed to take up the missionary task at home and abroad?

My first answer is that the specialised set-up of our administration ten years ago put us in a good position for starting. At that time we had one secretary and four office employees, all full-time workers. To-day we have a staff of four secretaries, a Bible translator and eight office employees. Without this expansion of the administration, we should not have been able to undertake the many tasks we now have in hand, and it has been a great advantage for us that we were able to build on to an already well-organised system, instead of having to start from the bottom. I cannot see that it is possible to enter into the joint responsibility for world-wide Bible Society work, carried out co-operatively in a stable and efficient way, unless there is a responsible staff, an office specialised in Bible Society work. Such work has to be properly organised. Planning, propaganda, correspondence and accounting, and even the eventual production of "foreign" versions, storage, shipment and distribution—all these things need administrative capacity and specialised skill.

We in the Norwegian Bible Society had our office and a well-developed contact with church congregations. But the contact with the churches, as well as the constitution of the Society, was established with only the work at home in view.

In order to be able to expand, we have found it necessary to develop the organisation of our work. We did not want to go the traditional way, founding a network of auxiliaries, appointing district secretaries and so on. Organisation-density and organisation-fatigue were already great enough in our country. On the other hand, we had to get somebody in each congregation whom we could count on as our contact people, willing to be responsible for Bible Society work in the local congregation. Those who are willing to do so form what is known as a "Bible team". We underline that they are not supposed to hold devotional gatherings, but to be a working team for Bible work in the community. The Bible team is responsible for Scripture distribution within the community, for promoting a better use of the Bible and for enlisting contributors for the world-wide work.

As a congregational working team it has to co-operate with the congregational council. As the congregational contact with the Bible Society, the Bible team has the status of a member of the Society. Membership involves the right to vote by three representatives, requires the payment of a yearly contribution to the world-wide work and entitles the member to the highest rate of discount on Scriptures purchased for distribution in the community.

Up to the present, Bible teams have been organised in only 40-50% of the congregations, and a good many of them are not yet really at work. There has, however, been a steady increase, and we have had such encouraging experiences with teams working according to the plan, that we have been confirmed in the belief that we are following the right course. Naturally, a good deal depends here, as in other activities, on getting hold of the right people. Where we have succeeded, the Bible team has realised Bible Society work in its fullest sense on a congregational basis.

The following gives an indication of how the teams work. In a small congregation, the Bible team bases its economy on yearly subscriptions—minimum one krone. There is one representative of each section on the Board. Once a year the men on the Board visit all the homes and collect subscriptions. All give willingly and many give more than one krone. At the same time, they find out if there is need for a new Bible or New Testament in the home. Then the Board meets and allocates the money collected to different purposes. Bibles or Testaments are ordered for those being confirmed and for bridal couples and also, maybe, some for the old people's home or the local hospital. Some needy persons are granted a Bible as a gift and Bibles are ordered for the homes which wish to buy one. In addition, there are always copies in stock, so that it is easy to obtain a Bible if needed. Then the teams arrange a Bible Sunday with a special service, at which there is a collection for the world-wide work and a celebration with a Bible lecture, Bible film and an account of the work. But besides this, the men of the Board have made preparations for starting Bible study groups in their own sections. They have obtained working material and collecting boxes from the Bible Society, and have made sure that the leaders have followed an evening course in group work.

In larger congregations, the work cannot be set up in exactly the same way, but the tasks are the same and many teams have shown great proficiency and imagination in solving the problems met. One example may be mentioned. In one city it is the custom for the Bible Sunday celebration to be opened by an ecumenical manifestation. A representative from every denomination, organisation and Christian working group is asked to read a selected passage from the Scriptures. They sit in the choir-stalls of the church and are one by one introduced by the Bishop. The Bible is the fundamental basis of all the divided groups, so that no better impression could be given to the fact that Bible work is the common task of all the churches.

One factor I should like to emphasize particularly is that since our reorganisation, our sales policy has been for *none of our editions to be subsidized.* The increase in salaries which has taken place here, as in other countries, since the war, means that most people can afford to pay the full price of a Bible and it is therefore no longer necessary to sell at a loss. And, knowing as we do, that people in most of the world cannot do the same and cannot get enough Scriptures simply because we do not have sufficient means to subsidize them, while the

quantity of Bibles available in our own country is 100 times as great as there, we consider it wrong to use money to subsidize Scriptures for sale at home. Of course, we are always ready to give away copies when we hear about special cases of real need. But we have had the experience that, even though prices have constantly risen, sales in general have shown a strong tendency to increase and the sale of the more expensive editions has increased more than that of the cheapest. We have based our prices on the cost of production and distribution, plus our expenses for administration and translation—a completely business-like basis of price fixing. Everything that comes in through church offerings, subscriptions and contributions, therefore, goes into the account for the world-wide work. In addition, when we have had the means, we have also set aside for this purpose a part of the profit from ordinary sales.

Of other special attempts to collect money for overseas Bible work, mention can be made of the fact that every year we ask the congregational councils for a church offering, preferably in connection with the holding of a Bible Sunday. Where there are organised Bible teams, we ask the team in a separate letter to take charge of this. Furthermore, we send out pamphlets, annual reports, collecting boxes, etc., to the congregations and Bible teams. We have also recently begun to keep a card index of individual contributors, and we make sure that all of these are sent all the pamphlets and other material as it appears, and we usually enclose an endorsement form.

We have also what we call direct membership and we have registered a few hundred members who pay life or annual subscriptions. We plan to do more in this direction than we have done up till now, by trying to recruit members more systematically and by a permanent "cultivation" of members with pamphlets and circulars.

In one city we have an excellent co-worker who sends us a large sum each year. One of his enterprises was to persuade the big evangelical alliance meetings, held in the city in the first week of the year, to allow all the collections to go to Bible work. It has been an ingenious idea—for everyone agrees that no aim can measure up to this one, as a *neutral* and at the same time *common* concern for all denominations and organisations. Other similar common arrangements have followed the example.

Our main point of view concerning the financing of the Bible mission has been this: gifts for overseas Bible work must be based on *gratitude for the Bible*. It is the "overflowing joy in the Bible" which we try to channel to this end. And here we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the other task the Society has felt called to take up—the promotion of a better use of the Bible—is at the same time serving to create this very "overflowing joy in the Bible".

II. The Organisation and experience of Bible study groups

Sverre Smaadahl

A special opportunity for organising a great number of local groups has been provided by the Preaching-Teaching-Reaching-Missions, held in about 400 congregations in Norway. The congregations need a number of small Bible and prayer groups in the preparation of the missions and we of the Norwegian Bible Society have edited a special study outline for this purpose. There are congregations which have had 50 Bible study groups at work for nine months

before a mission. What has been more difficult has been getting the groups to continue with "follow-up" work. However, since the congregations feel strongly the need for better follow-up, and since Bible groups in the homes have proved so effective for this purpose, the problem has now been solved in many places. (We have produced mimeographed introductions for these groups.)

Instruction is necessary, however, since people are usually so afraid of leading groups. But we use the Bible study outlines as "recipes" and these, along with other materials such as commentaries and concordances, make leadership much easier, so that most Christians are able to become group leaders. A Bible study group must not be mistaken for a Bible lesson, where usually one man speaks most of the time. In a Bible group all members have the same opportunity to speak and to participate.

The Norwegian Bible Society has edited seven different Bible study outlines and altogether 30,000 copies have been sold during the past three years.

The Bible teams are responsible for founding new groups, for dividing up groups which have become too large, etc. Many groups are also founded as the result of a direct application from interested people. For example, more than 500 applicants asked for the study outline we used during four group meetings which we broadcast in July.

The groups are expected to be the basic working cells for the world-wide Bible task. We distribute pamphlets and collecting boxes to the groups, and in many of them the habit has been established of giving to the work at every gathering. A substantial increase in the collections taken in 1958 is mainly due to income from the groups' collecting boxes.

Membership and Finance—Backbone of Bible Society Organisation in the Netherlands

J. J. Kijne

This article is one section of an address given by Mr. Kijne at the Scandinavian Regional Conference in August 1958.

THE NETHERLANDS BIBLE SOCIETY is an example of a particular form of organisation. The nucleus of the Society is not formed by individual members, but by Auxiliaries, which are the backbone of the Society's organisation. According to our constitution, twenty-five members—should they feel concerned to do so—are, under certain conditions, at liberty to start a new Auxiliary of the Netherlands Bible Society. In actual practice we no longer have individual members who do not belong to an Auxiliary, as the network of Auxiliaries now covers the whole country. The only thing that still happens is that a smaller place, which up till a certain date belonged to a larger Auxiliary, detaches itself and becomes an independent Auxiliary.

The highest authority of the Netherlands Bible Society is the Annual General Meeting of representatives of the Auxiliaries, which takes place on the third

Wednesday of June. This General Meeting appoints the members of the Board of Directors (or General Committee) and has to approve this Board's yearly report and financial report. Furthermore, they can approve or disapprove the decisions of the General Committee acted upon by the Society's officers during the past year.

At the present time the Auxiliaries number over 800, with a total membership of around 165,000. As members of an Auxiliary, these 165,000 are members of the Netherlands Bible Society also and contribute to its income. As a rule the yearly contribution amounts to guilders 2.50, although life membership at guilders 150 is also possible.

The board of an Auxiliary consists normally of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and a librarian. The latter has a stock of Bible editions at his disposal for sale and it is his task to distribute the Bibles, especially to churches, evangelistic campaigns, schools, etc. The collection of yearly contributions is undertaken centrally at the Society's headquarters, from whence each local treasurer obtains the necessary materials for carrying out the actual collection of contributions. Contributions of less than guilders 2.50 a year are not administered centrally, but are considered as gifts, which the local treasurer has to collect, pass on to the Bible House and account for as part of his Auxiliary administration. The Secretary of the Auxiliary as well as the treasurer and the librarian have to send in a yearly report to headquarters.

Ensuring an informed membership

The N.B.S. gives account of its activities to its members through the distribution of three or four different folders during the year. They cover subjects which in part have to do with the work of the Society at home, but in part also introduce or explain the plans of the Society and its activities in different fields of action abroad. The members of the boards of the Auxiliaries also receive other folders, in which plans are set out in more detail and members are told what is expected from them. Contact between members and headquarters is one that requires constant effort and a continual search for new ways of promoting it. This is the task of the Home Organisation Secretary and his staff, the latter comprising five district secretaries, who between them cover the whole of the Netherlands, each having approximately 150 Auxiliaries with which to keep regular contact. In addition, a special youth secretary is responsible for building up youth membership in the Society. Youngsters who bring a new member in can become youth members of the Netherlands Bible Society.

The motivating idea

The great problem, of course, is how to keep the members, how to activate them, how to gain new members through membership drives or otherwise. Details are given below about methods used to this end. But more important than the methods and ways by which a certain idea is brought home to people, is the idea itself. In other words, what should be the underlying conception of all these efforts to capture and retain the interest of members or prospective members? It is our belief in the N.B.S. that our motivating idea must be that of service and missionary-mindedness. Of this service the member of the Bible Society is both object and subject. He is in many ways himself served by the Bible Society and the contribution he pays may well be a token of thankfulness for this service rendered to him. But he is also constantly being enabled, through

the Bible Society, to serve others and is stimulated by the Society to take an active part himself in this service to others. This applies equally to the home field and to the work abroad.

Contact with churches and missionary outreach

At home, the recently formed Bible Society Department for Contact with the Churches (see BULLETIN 35) serves the Society's members by calling their attention to the importance of the Bible and its use, and to their responsibility for giving the reading of the Scriptures a main place in their own life. But through the work of this department members are also enabled to serve others by taking an active part in the various activities organised by the department. This applies in particular to the colportage work carried out by means of Bible vans. Although the vans are in the charge of professional colporteurs, there is plenty of scope for the Society's members to play an active role as volunteers. This service, received and rendered, will increase awareness of the importance of the existence and activity of the Bible Society.

Abroad, the idea of service and missionary-mindedness receives an even clearer expression. Without the translations prepared under the auspices of the Bible Society, without the production of the necessary books for the churches overseas, progress in missionary outreach and church development would have been considerably slower. The recognition of the services thus rendered by the Bible Society to the missionary societies, and more recently to younger sister societies and churches, is gradually growing among many supporters of missionary work in Holland, and in this way potential supporters of Bible Society work are also being reached. On this basis it is possible to appeal to the Christian's sense of responsibility towards other peoples and to sister Societies and churches in other countries.

It is this great idea of service and missionary-mindedness, which is the basis of Bible Society work, that needs to be promoted. The whole work of the Bible Society must therefore be explained to members and prospective members in those terms, in order to be able to appeal to their sense of Christian responsibility. The entire range of Bible Society propaganda methods, well-known in other countries too, is used to this end.

Promotion work

During some three or four years we worked on a film about the whole field of N.B.S. activities and this film was entitled "No more frontiers". It was a great success and brought in a considerable number of new members. But once it had been shown everywhere in the country, its usefulness was practically at an end. We have also used large exhibitions, which were shown in many places and reached a large number of people, especially school children from about 10-18 years of age. In these exhibitions members of the local Auxiliaries were again actively engaged, both in the organisation and in serving as guides. Local Auxiliaries and their members also play an important part in the organisation of Bible reading days and colportage campaigns, in co-operation with the Bible Society's colporteurs. Local Auxiliaries also organise membership campaigns from time to time, at the instigation of the responsible district secretary.

We also follow other well-known methods: lectures either during meetings of the Auxiliaries or of other organisations and churches, with or without film or filmstrips; lessons in schools; talks on the radio; and, as often as possible, publicity through the press.

Seeking new methods

Besides these more or less traditional methods, the Home Secretary and his staff are always experimenting with new methods to bring the Bible and the Bible Society nearer to the people. There has been the experiment with an actor who, on a small stage built in the Bible stand at a big fair, played a series of 5-minute sketches, in which the importance of the Bible for men in various situations of life was indicated. There has been, in addition, the experiment with a well-known reciter who, at meetings organised by the Bible Society in some 60 towns and larger villages, recited parts of the Bible. This method of presenting the contents of the Bible in a totally new way was appreciated by many, but there were others who did not like it at all.

Of late, the Home Organisation Department has been experimenting with so-called district activities. By this we mean the featuring of several activities of the Netherlands Bible Society during a certain period in a chosen area, which is not too large. One might call it a concentrated attack. They may comprise a Bible reading day, an exhibition, film evenings, lectures in the schools with film and filmstrips, a thorough colportage campaign. In this way, the attention of the area is drawn very concentratedly, during a short period, to the Bible and the Bible Society. The whole enterprise starts with a press conference which ensures the necessary publicity. It is too early yet to say whether this method will bring in the results hoped from it. The first experiments in the Spring of 1958 were too improvised to serve as a gauge, but the district activities planned for last Autumn were prepared for a longer period and should therefore provide better results.

All these activities aim at increasing the number of members of the Bible Society to 200,000 which, in proportion to the size of the Protestant community in Holland, is not too high an aim. But there is still a long way to go before it is reached.

However, behind the aim of increasing the number of members of the Society there lies a greater aim. The Bible Society is not an end in itself. The aim of trying to increase the number of members is not to increase the importance and glory of the Bible Society, but is solely to provide the Bible Society with the means to accomplish better its service and missionary task towards and among the people of the Netherlands, but not less towards and together with other peoples of the world. For "the field is the world".

The Enrolment of Future Generations—in the Netherlands

R. van Holst Pellekaan

THE FIRST AND CHIEF AIM of our work among young people is to establish contacts with those from whom we may not only expect future active help and co-operation, but who may also be expected to enter positions in which they will be bound to give guidance within their professional circles as regards Bible Society work. Of course, there are many other items in our youth programme, but we gladly accept the editor's invitation to give a few details about our contacts with one particular group of young people : theological students.

Time and time again in our home work we meet with ministers who are hardly, or are not at all, familiar with Bible Society work, and who consequently

are lacking in enthusiasm for stimulating the auxiliary work and who are unable to see the whole in a world-wide perspective. Just because they, especially in the smaller places, will occupy key positions, it is of vital importance to make them thoroughly acquainted with the extremely important work which the Bible Society is trying to do for the benefit of churches and missions.

A start was therefore made by bringing together, at meetings specially arranged for them, students of theology recruited as much as possible from different churches. The annual number of these meetings has been increasing gradually and we are now working on a plan which will guarantee that all theologians, before entering their ministry, will have spent at least one day studying the work of the Bible Societies.

What kind of programme is arranged for such a meeting of theological students ? As far as possible a chairman is invited who can command some influence within the circle of the students invited, and who is well acquainted with the purposes of our work. In order to maintain a certain atmosphere of intimacy, we never exceed forty in number for such a group.

After the opening of the meeting with a word of welcome and a cup of coffee, a selection from the American Bible Society film "The Bible, how it came to us" is shown. It serves as an introduction and as a link with a lecture on the missionary translation work which the Netherlands Bible Society and other Bible Societies have been doing in the past and are still doing daily. But this part of the meeting is not restricted to mere listening. In order to get a vivid picture of all the problems and aspects connected with translation work, a number of questions are put to the meeting. These are questions which were originally put by linguists in Indonesia and Surinam to the Advisory Committees in Amsterdam, which have already been answered and which have been selected by our Translations Secretary from the vast material which he has at his disposal.

From our large meeting room, our guests then disperse all over Bible House in groups of six or seven, in order to discuss as thoroughly as possible these questions, which may bear reference either to the exegetical or linguistic field. A period of about three quarters of an hour is left available for these discussions.

Then follows luncheon, a simple sandwich meal which is usually a very lively occasion, since the group discussions, apart from breaking the ice, generally offer abundant subjects for conversation.

The crowning point of this part of the programme is the general discussion in which the groups bring in their reports, the introducer gives his views and finally the replies of the Advisory Committee are handed round on stencilled sheets. They are generally accompanied by one of the issues of "The Bible Translator". During this discussion, in which there is often no lack of humour, the animated spirit of lunch time is maintained.

In order not to dive too precipitately into the next part of the programme, a film show serves as a break. Sometimes this is just any film, like a documentary on Amsterdam, but on other occasions one on Bible Society work is shown. Once we even had the temerity to show a Charlie Chaplin film which, for all that, was well received.

After diverting the thoughts of our visitors somewhat in this manner, we then take up another item of our work : publishing, and more especially the publication of illustrated portions. Many samples, both those of previous

times and current productions, are shown and explained, amongst others portions in magazine format. They are reviewed in close relation to the problem which plays such an important part in the planning of such editions—the good use of the Bible. Millions and millions of Bibles and portions come from the press every year in many languages. How are they used ? This is the vital question which is now put to the meeting. It offers an important link with the practice of their own vocation. In their future work it is not only the correct use of the Bible which will be a salient point, but also the question : what sort of editions are required ? What contribution can be made by the churches so as to render the service offered to these churches by the Netherlands Bible Society as efficient as possible ? It is stressed that the N.B.S. is always open to suggestion and advice.

There is another break in the programme, giving the meeting an opportunity to have a cup of tea and devote closer attention to the publications just discussed. This also applies to a small exhibition which shows, apart from contemporary productions of special interest, a number of valuable old Dutch Bibles which it would be hard to find anywhere else.

At the beginning of this account we mentioned a "world-wide perspective". This is the subject to which attention is given in the introduction which follows now. It deals with the foreign work (with the exception of translation work, which has already been reviewed), international co-operation within the framework of the United Bible Societies, the large demand for Bibles in different parts of the world and how this can be met. Full stress is laid upon the close ties with the missions and the fact that Bible Society work is an indispensable part of mission work. A speaker from mission circles is sometimes asked to introduce this part of the programme, as such a man can tell from experience of the vital importance of a close relation between missions and Bible Society.

It is not superfluous to stress this latter point, since too often the great importance of our foreign work is overlooked, particularly at times of great change such as we are now witnessing. Moreover, in explaining the tie which binds us to the missions, we make the whole of our work more real.

At the end of the meeting an opportunity is offered to the students to put questions. Then it is closed by the chairman, with an appeal to give a place in future ministry to the work of the Bible Society—the place which it deserves.

This is the framework within such students' meetings are generally held. Without being complacent, I think we may say that they meet with great appreciation. It goes without saying that this sort of activity costs us money, but we are convinced that our expenses are made good later on and are fully justified.

Regular contributors to this programme are our Translations Secretary, Mr. J. J. Kijne and the Rev. F. Visser, who is Secretary for Contact with the Churches and for the Committee for the Good Use of the Bible. The last part of the programme is alternatively led by either our General Secretary, Mr. F. L. S. F. Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken, or by speakers from the missionary world.

The planning of the whole programme, and practical arrangements during the day itself, are in the hands of our Youth Department. We are confident that, by seeking contact with future theologians in this way, we have started upon a road which will open up new possibilities in times to come.

Why do People Give to The Bible Society?

Robert T. Taylor

WHAT ARE THE MOTIVATIONS for giving? Who are the people who have wisdom and vision to give towards the sending of Scriptures to the world? Where do they live? What are their major interests? Where can we find more like them? What can a Bible Society do to cause their tribe to increase?

The question of why people give is basic. American advertisers have discovered that they must know why people buy and "depth motivation" studies have become the fad of the day. (See Vance Packard's disturbing and illuminating book "Hidden Persuaders".) A number of advertising firms are employing the full-time services of psychologists and psychiatrists. They are trying to move from the purely empirical process of determining what produces sales to the scientific method of discovering the rules which are behind the results. Regardless of how much we may abhor some of the methods used by "depth motivation" experts in advertising, we can learn from the thoroughness of their studies, for every Bible Society staff member who seeks donations is expressing an opinion on motivatons for giving.

Contents and timing of appeals

For example, a representative of the Society is to speak for 20 minutes and receive an offering. He cannot tell of the total work. What does he select? If he is experienced, he has discovered that some accounts of the work consistently create lasting interest, produce new friends and bring a more generous offering. Whether he realises it or not, his selection of material for his speech is an analysis of motivations for giving. A Bible Society staff member engages in similar analysis when he writes a letter of appeal or prepares an advertisement.

Again, some of us learned long ago, that a letter asking for a gift will secure better results if it does not arrive during the first day or two of the month when the recipient's mail contains a high percentage of bills from shops for goods supplied. We have also learned to try to keep appeal letters from arriving on Monday. We also know that people are generally more responsive in the month of November and the first two weeks of December. We have discovered the advantages of a first letter followed by a second letter in about six weeks. If the first letter arrives on October 25, the second should arrive on December 5. It must not be delivered at exactly the same time of the month as the first appeal. We know this only by experience. So far we have insufficient data on the influence of emotional cycles on giving. It is possible that all people move in emotional cycles determined by a force beyond our understanding. If this could be established we might some day space our mailings according to the phases of the moon or the annual weather predictions in the Old Farmers' Almanac! Such a theory sounds as nonsensical as Lagadonian research problems, but it indicates how much we have to learn. We have only started to explore, but we do have some indications of the motivations for giving.

Relating donor to recipient

The basic reason for giving to Christian work is love of Jesus Christ. Very few gifts to Bible Society work will be received from non-Christians. The problem is that so many who love Jesus Christ are not giving to share the Scriptures. Their interest must be stirred.

The Bible Societies make considerable use of what is know in fund-raising as "identification". An effort is made to break through the impersonal group and create identification of the donor with the recipient. As a simple example : few Christians would refuse the gift of a Bible to the family next door or down the street. If a family in the neighbourhood wanted a Bible but lacked the funds to purchase a copy, almost any Christian, however lukewarm, would be quick to meet the need.

Perhaps the most successful fund-raising organisation in the U.S.A. is CARE. The donor is told the exact articles which will be supplied by his gift. In a few weeks he receives an acknowledgment from the person who has received the package. The giver is identified with his gift. He gave for a purpose and he knows the desired result has been attained.

Churches use much the same method when a local parish supports a missionary. The members know how the money is being used. They receive letters from the missionary describing the beneficial results of their gifts. They are identified with their gift. The British and Foreign Bible Society uses this scheme in a splendid way with its sponsorship of Scripture carrying ships by groups of boys and girls.

We can also discover something from donors who are known to us personally. The woman whose sister is a missionary in India designates her gift for work in India. Because of her sister the people of India are almost as close to her as the neighbour down the street. The young man who served in the army in Korea wants his contribution used for illustrated Gospels in Korean. He remembers a Korean boy of 14 who found Christ through reading one of these Gospels. When he sends his cheque he has a mental image of this boy with his Gospel.

There is no doubt much more that the Bible Societies can do to secure identification of the donor with the gift. Further use of this method presents many difficulties and creates problems in administration, particularly on the field. The extent to which it can be used must be decided by all concerned departments in a Society. Such decisions will be reached much more easily if they follow a study of the motivations for giving. We certainly should tend more and more to telling people how many Scriptures their gifts will supply. Vivid writing is filled with specific detail. Effective fund-raising must also be filled with specific detail.

Creating confidence in use of gifts

Closely related to "identification" is the need of the donor for confidence in the effectiveness of his gift. A few years ago the American Bible Society started sending a copy of the annual Board of Managers' Report to several thousands of the Society's most faithful contributors. A note of appreciation accompanied each report with no request for an additional gift. This was not done because contributors want to be thanked but because they like to know how their gift was used. They have the right to know. Elaborate letters of

appreciation sent with a receipt resulted in many requests for the Society to omit the letter, whereas the factual report mailed months after the gift brought letters of gratitude and increased gifts.

Identification and confidence grow with increased information. Publicity, therefore, prepares the way for fund-raising. Information about the work of the Society must appear in religious and secular publications. Publicity is often secured by making a fact into an event. American Bible Society distribution of the first volume in its second half billion of Scriptures was a fact. The presentation of a symbolic volume to President Eisenhower was an event. The jubilee of the British and Foreign Bible Society was a fact which was well publicized by a number of events.

Of course, the most effective channels for providing information are the Society's own publications. At the start of 1958 the American Bible Society placed the names of 10,000 new contributors of $1.00 each in a special file. One half of the group is receiving the Bible Society *Record* and the other half is not. The test will be completed at the end of 1959, but early reports indicate more and larger gifts from those who are receiving the magazine. Knowledge is producing identification and confidence.

It goes without saying that adverse publicity harms fund-raising. The Bible Societies cannot meet all the needs but any complaint from a church worker of any brushing aside of a legitimate request, or seeming insensitivity to the need, will nearly always have an adverse effect on giving. If we have the faith to go forward, the Lord will help provide the necessary funds.

Reasons for giving

We know identification and confidence motivate giving, but how can we discover more about the reasons for giving?

About a year ago the American Bible Society made an attempt to obtain more information by circulating a questionnaire to 20,000 contributors. It purposely asked the individual not to sign his name, for the chances of honest answers are much higher on an anonymous questionnaire. The tabulation of the 4,000 replies was most interesting. For example, the survey indicated that a high percentage of contributors were over 60 years of age. Of course, one must realise the possibility of more older people taking time to answer the questionnaire. Other studies, however, confirm the opinion that many contributors have lived three score years or more. If this is true now, and was not true 50 years ago, it is a disturbing situation. It appears, however, that Bible Society support has always come predominantly from older people. If this be true, there is much encouragement in the predictions of the population forecasters that the number of people over 60 years of age will increase rapidly in the next 25 years. This could mean much greater support for the Bible Society because of a larger group of older people.

The American Bible Society survey also indicated that the more the Bible means in the life of the individual, the more readily will he give the Bible to someone else. This knowledge helps a Bible Society to decide how far it can go in programmes to encourage Bible reading. Should all funds be used to send Scriptures to the foreign field or should some money be used to encourage Bible use at home? Facts are necessary if the Society is to make wise decisions in terms of a long-range programme.

The response to advertising

Tests of reasons for giving are also possible by analysis of responses to paid advertising in various types of journals. American Bible Society tabulation of the results of such advertisements go back for over 50 years. There are clear-cut patterns of response. Advertising in one type of religious journal will bring a high return and in another will produce such a low return that advertising in it is not justified. No churchman or advertising specialist without the benefit of knowledge of testing experience has ever been able to guess which particular magazines will bring the best returns.

A similar tabulation is made by types of advertisements. Again there is irrefutable evidence that some advertisements induce a much greater response than others. Continually we are asking WHY? Is it the picture? Is it the "copy"? Who are the people who read these magazines, and what words, pictures and colours motivate them to give? There is no easy answer, but it is a fascinating study and some of the problems are as baffling as the Man in the Iron Mask. The Bible Society has only a few dollars to spend on advertising. Good stewardship demands their wisest possible use.

Appeals by correspondence

As described in an earlier article, the same type of testing goes on with letters. Why does use of the colour blue produce better results than orange? Such a study could carry one back to the Turkish colour wheel or the Greek modes. Is blue the colour of tranquility? The study could enter the field of psychiatry with its use of colour isolation booths to induce concentration. There is no need for the Bible Society fund-raiser to go so deep into the problem, but he ought to know as much as possible about motivations directly related to gifts to a Bible Society. He states his opinion why people give, based either on fact or fancy, every time he makes a speech, writes an article or letter, prepares an exhibit, promotes a meeting or writes an advertisement.

Bible-lovers are Bible-givers

The most encouraging part in a study of motivations for giving to a Bible Society is one's growing admiration for the individuals and churches supporting the work. Bible-loving people are Bible-giving people. They want above all to know that their gift accomplishes a worthy purpose in Christ's Kingdom. For the most part they will not respond to trick appeals. It is not necessary to offer them a bonus or a "prize in every package". The contributors to the Bible Society work are in all probability the noblest people on earth. The only problem is that there are not enough of them to meet to-day's needs for the Scriptures and this is the fault of the Bible Societies. There are undoubtedly multitudes of faithful Christians who will support the work of the Bible Society if the story is told in the way that will interest them.

The American Bible Society has a long way to go in its fund-raising. In relation to the wealth of its constituency, its fund-raising falls short of that of a number of other Bible Societies. It hopes to catch up by means of study, analysis and application of known facts to all fund-raising procedures.

Auxiliary Work in England and Wales

Percy R. Thomas

THE "AUXILIARY" SYSTEM in England and Wales was described in the July, 1956 BULLETIN. The object of this article is to share recent developments in the hope that they will be of interest and help to fellow-workers in other Bible Societies.

The basis of our appeal

An auxiliary seeks to be representative of the total Church in the local setting, with representatives of the different congregations on its committee. It is organised in order to forward the work of Bible translation and distribution throughout the world, which in reality is the Church's task. At present there are 2,500 auxiliaries and branches of auxiliaries in England and Wales. There are a number of full-time secretaries, representative again of the main denominations, who help the auxiliaries, address meetings and conduct services on behalf of the B.F.B.S.

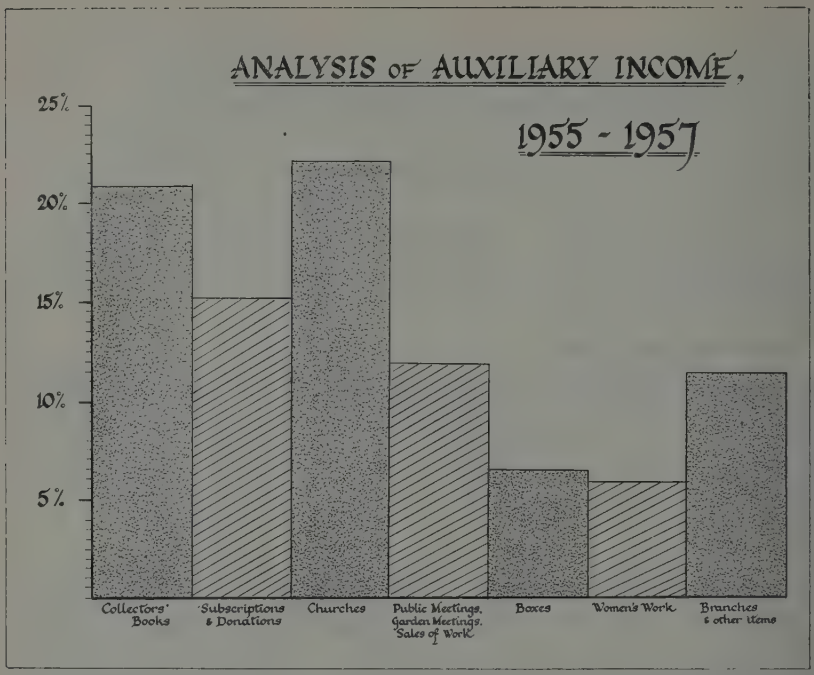
The basis of our appeal is simple yet profound. It is that the message of the Bible is Jesus Christ. There are millions dying in the world to-day without ever having known Him. Perhaps even more significant, there are millions trying to live in the world to-day without Him. The Bible Societies have been commissioned to perform the primary task of translating and distributing the Bible, without which a true proclamation of the Gospel to the world is impossible. In a world where the population is increasing at the rate of 5,400 souls an hour it is clear that the need for Scriptures will become steadily greater.

Money raising

Bible Society work, like all missionary work, is costly in effort and in money. A large part of the work of a home department of such a society consists, therefore, in raising money to finance Bible distribution at home and overseas. The contributions from auxiliaries in England and Wales fell alarmingly during the opening years of the Second World War. In 1941 only £56,000 was contributed. Then in the last years of the war contributions rose sharply, to be followed by four post-war years when Auxiliary income was almost static. Then during the period of preparation for the B.F.B.S. Third Jubilee and the follow-up of that memorable year, the home income steadily increased. In 1957 it amounted to more than £138,000 and this year (1958) we aim at £156,000. In addition to this, auxiliary work influences the number of gifts sent direct to Bible House and the number of legacies—that is, the total giving to the B.F.B.S.

The methods used

The income is raised not through big gifts but through thousands of small gifts and small efforts. The chart below shows the main sources of Auxiliary income based on the returns for the last three years. Over 80% of this income is raised in six ways: through subscriptions, the work of a number of voluntary collectors, church collections and donations, collections at meetings of various kinds, collecting boxes in homes and women's work.



This is a bald statement of collecting methods, but anyone engaged in Bible Society work will know of the many human stories that underlie the gifts received. There is a wooden collecting box in one home that has been used continuously by generations of that family for a hundred and twenty years. A letter was received recently from a schoolboy: "I am sending you one shilling, my pocket money. May it help the Bible Society". There is a retired railwayman who sells the produce of his greenhouse to help forward the Bible Society. There seems to be no end to the ingenuity and the keenness of supporters.

The special occasion

It is good strategy to make much of an occasion of local significance. A number of the Auxiliaries at the present time are celebrating either their third jubilee or their centenaries. This gives an opportunity for a special celebration which will focus attention in the neighbourhood on the Bible and the work of the B.F.B.S. Rallies with outstanding speakers are arranged, and at the same time the Auxiliary aims at a special gift. Last October, for instance, the Auxiliary at Reading, a town with a population of 114,000, celebrated its third jubilee. Some 1,500 people attended the meeting in the Town Hall with Bishop Stephen Neill and the Rev. Dr. W. J. Platt as the speakers. The Auxiliary hopes to increase its annual contributions by 50%. Similarly, Newcastle-on-Tyne is celebrating its third jubilee shortly. An interesting series of special meetings and services has been arranged. The Auxiliary hopes to pay for a new Bible van, and at a reception to be given by the Lord Mayor in March prominent businessmen will launch a £5,000 appeal.

Membership

At the present time we are engaged in a drive for new members. According to the Royal Charter of the Society, a subscriber of £1.1.0 a year is entitled to become a member of the B.F.B.S. In the last two years we have doubled our membership. Each member receives a Certificate of Membership, a prayer booklet and, if desired, free copies of the magazine "The Bible in the World" and the popular report. We have found in practice that the average gift is well above one guinea, especially if the gift is covenanted, which enables the Society to claim a rebate in income tax. These registered members constitute a body of people who have knowledge of the work of the Society, are committed to it, and remember its work through prayer and gift.

Two methods of increasing membership have proved effective. One member of the staff always appeals at church services for membership of the Society and stands at the door at the end of the services with membership forms. Another obtains from clergy and ministers lists of church members who can be approached to become members of the Society. To each of these a personal letter is sent, and the results fully justify the money and effort entailed.

The next step is to arrange meetings of members in a neighbourhood so that together they may help forward the work of the B.F.B.S.

A new development

A recent development in the church life of England which may affect support of the Bible Society for good or bad is the introduction of the Welles scheme, or variants arranged by different churches. These schemes have one thing in common, namely, that only a certain number of Societies will receive gifts from the local church. We are anxious that the B.F.B.S. should not be forgotten when lists of Societies to be supported are drawn up by the churches. The Congregational Church in its scheme "Every Person Canvass" has already suggested that the Bible Society should be included in the list of Societies helped by the churches and also recommends to members that it is a Society worthy of the service of members.

The following resolution appeared among those passed by the Conference of Anglican Bishops meeting at Lambeth in 1958:—

"The Conference welcomes the new translations of the Scriptures in many languages and would encourage our people to give all possible support to those Societies whose concern is the distribution of the Scriptures to all lands. Much still remains to be done in this field and the need is urgent".

Such recommendations help greatly in our appeals to the churches.

Conferences

In our educational programme, conferences have an important place. Day or evening conferences are arranged regularly for groups of workers drawn from different auxiliaries. These give the opportunity for Christian fellowship, and for news of the work overseas, and we find that the delegates stimulate each other to greater efforts. From time to time regional conferences are organised. Then every three or four years a national conference is planned. In June, 1959, for instance, over 200 delegates are expected for a weekend conference at Swanwick, Derbyshire.

In the Auxiliaries to-day there is a greater realisation of the importance of the message of the Bible for the world, and a new sense of the urgency and centrality of the work of the Bible Society. This means that there are behind the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society thousands of dedicated and informed supporters who are fully alive to the spiritual struggle for the souls of men going on at the present time in the world.

To-day's Youth Ensures The Future

B. J. Tidball

Beginnings of young people's work

IT IS A FAMILIAR ENOUGH STORY that one of the factors bringing into being the Bible Society movement was a young Welsh girl's twin ambition to read and possess her own Bible. What is not so well-known is the continuing interest and support of young people following teen-age Mary Jones's lead at the beginning of the nineteenth century. For example, 80 years ago when the first London headquarters of the British and Foreign Bible Society was demolished to make way for the new Queen Victoria Street running from Blackfriars Station to the Mansion House and a new Bible House was built, the young people of Wales contributed £1,000 and Yorkshire young folk £1,300 towards the cost. These contributions amounted to one shilling in every pound donated for the purpose of this new building.

In 1868 a "Juvenile Bible and Missionary Association" was formed in a Sheffield Sunday School whose children, in 7 years, collected over £450; £325 of this came from subscriptions of ½d. a week! In 1869 a "Juvenile Bible Society" was formed in Newcastle-on-Tyne raising £39 that year and larger amounts in succeeding years totalling £441 in 7 years. On the other side of northern England, at Southport, collections were begun in a Girls' School, the idea spreading to other schools and colleges, with the result that in 2 years £380 was raised.

Service of youth groups to-day

A long paragraph could be written on the continuing support of the Society by young people in the intervening years, but let us speak of the present day. Newcastle-on-Tyne, for example, serves the Society in several ways. First, the many branches of its huge Auxiliary are staffed by men and women who have been trained in the Society's Youth Movement over the last 20 years. Secondly, the young people have been responsible for staging several major pageants attracting thousands of people in Newcastle's largest hall. Thirdly, in the summer of this year young folk helped to organise a Flag Day in the city which raised over £300.

Other cities have their Youth Groups besides Newcastle (Sheffield, Leeds, Derby, Manchester, Bristol, Bath and others; smaller towns too, like Clacton and Southend on the East Coast). These formulate their own varied programmes to spread news of Bible Society work and attract new supporters. One of the favourite current methods is for Youth Teams to produce special evenings on continents (like Africa, India and South America) and present them to Youth

Club and adult audiences. By means of prepared maps, plus the aid of films, a play and a talk these teams present, vividly and colourfully, the needs and opportunities of Christian witness and especially of Scripture distribution in various vital areas of the world.

Their financial contribution

Activities such as this emphasise the *service* aspect of young people's support which is all part of the undertaking of those who join the B.F.B.S. Youth Fellowship. Another part of the undertaking is *financial* support and this is done through direct contributions and particular money-raising ventures. For example, the Bristol Youth Group has for some years produced an annual play, stocked a summer market stall and sung Christmas carols—all the proceeds of these going to the Bible Society. From time to time members of the Youth Fellowship have undertaken the sponsorship of particular Scripture versions and over the past 10 years this alone has totalled over £5,000.

Help through schools

No account of young people's enthusiasm for the B.F.B.S. would be complete without reference to the children of Sunday Schools and Day Schools throughout the country, as well as the members of ships' crews attached to our *Good News Transport Fleet*. As this article is being written a post card has arrived at Bible House from a town in Worcestershire telling us that the crew of Good News Ship 'RUNDI' has just raised its "194th guinea" and that they hope to complete the 200th this year! A Young People's Fellowship in South Wales has sent the following contributions: December, 1957 £20, March, 1958 £20, April £50, October £25, making a total of £115 in 10 months. A Girls' High School in the Midlands has collected about £40 annually for some years, through the enthusiasm of one of its teachers (a member of the Society's Youth Fellowship), and the 1958 collection exceeded £50. The writer visited a small Derbyshire town at the end of October and met the Auxiliary Treasurer who, it was learned, includes in his contributors to the Society 25 local schools. These he visits regularly as his daughter drives around the country towns and villages making her calls as a District Nurse. One village school of 50 children had just contributed £8. At the other end of the scale scores of Boys' and Girls' Boarding Schools regularly donate their Sunday collections to the work of the B.F.B.S. totalling a very considerable annual sum.

It should be made clear that in none of the great variety of schools visited by Bible Society speakers and preachers is a direct financial appeal made. A plain factual statement of the scope of Bible Society work is sufficient to arouse interest and reference is made to the financial losses incurred by the Society in circulating the Scriptures only when questions on the subject are raised by the audience.

Youth in post-war Auxiliaries

The post-war years in Britain have seen not only a recovery, but a vast increase of Church activities. And with a wider range of entertainments and an increase in hobbies and evening classes for both young people and adults, people are busier than ever with less and less time for new interests. To attempt, therefore, to create a new movement amongst youth within a parish by taking away young people from their existing loyalties would, quite rightly, meet with strong opposition from clergy and ministers. Nor would any local Bible Society

Auxiliary look favourably on a youthful section of supporters being entirely separate from them, thus creating something of a diversion. Happily it has never been the intention of the Society to do either of the above. Whenever a Youth Group has been founded it has sprung up spontaneously in a locality supported by young people in different churches, whose imagination has been fired by the great task of the Bible Society movement within the framework of the Christian Church. Groups thus formed have drawn together the churches and have been favoured by clergy and ministers. The wider vision of the World Church actually serves to make them better supporters of their own churches. Similarly, young people who have been inspired, instructed and trained at Bible Society Conferences and House Parties have been urged to link up with the local Auxiliary and serve it in some way. How well this policy has succeeded in the last 20 years is shown by the number of present Auxiliary officers who owe their first interest in the work to a Bible Society Youth Meeting. For example, at a recent presentation of a B.F.B.S. exhibition in a town in Kent (at which 17 churches of different communions co-operated) one of the principal organisers was a young man who attended a Bible Society summer conference 7 years ago, but who has not had time since to keep regular contact with *youth* activities. A few months ago in a town in Warwickshire a vicar's wife was asked to succeed the retiring Auxiliary secretary. She hesitated to accept an extra piece of local service, but had to admit that she had once belonged to the London Youth Group of the Bible Society and after such an experience she found it impossible to refuse the local opportunity to serve.

Bible House Youth Group

Readers might be interested in the sort of programme which the largest Youth Group of the Society (meeting at Bible House, London) arranges from year to year. Meetings are held at 3 p.m. once a month on a Saturday afternoon. The chairman is a young Essex school teacher who is also a member of the Society's Education Advisory Committee. After opening devotions, conducted by a Group member, the visiting speaker is allowed about one hour for his talk and to answer questions. After tea (prepared beforehand by Group members) there follows a Bible study session and for this a great variety of versions is used both in Modern English and European languages. The members then divide up to rehearse a play on Bible Society or missionary work or to prepare maps and charts for use at meetings (described above) or to sort some of the vast quantities of postage stamps sent in by children throughout Britain for 'Stamp Corner'. As to the type of speaker addressing these Group meetings, it is always arranged that the importance and relevance of the Bible is the basis of talks. For example, in the 1957/8 session the speakers were members of the Society's General Committee relating their different professions (medicine, engineering, commerce, etc.), to Bible Society Committee work; the present session is devoted to showing the partnership between the major Missionary Societies and the Bible Society in the new outward look of the world-wide Church; for 1959/60, it is planned to have Christian Members of Parliament of different political outlooks to show the relation between their understanding of the Bible and the government of the country.

Contacts with school teachers

Finally, amongst the innumerable contacts the Education and Youth Department of the B.F.B.S. has with Britain's schools and colleges are counted the occasional receptions held at Bible House for school teachers. At the end of October, 1958, such a reception was held for Heads of London Grammar

Schools and their Scripture specialists at which the Society's new film "The Leaves of the Tree" was shown. A visit was also paid to the Bible House Library where two of the Translations Department's staff introduced "treasures old and new" and answered the guests' many questions.

In November at one of the Society's exhibitions at Folkestone more than 200 of the town's teachers came to hear a lecture on "The Bible in the Classroom" delivered by a member of the Society's Education Advisory Committee, herself a retired High School specialist teacher of History and Scripture.

To sum up, what is the main purpose of the continuous visitation of schools, colleges and youth meetings, the receiving of young people into the Society's fellowship through local Youth Groups, visits to Bible House, the organisation of Conferences, House Parties and study groups, and the giving to Youth of many opportunities of service? It is to ensure that in the near and more distant future the B.F.B.S. will not fail for lack of voluntary supporters, which are now the backbone of the work in Britain, and the donors of a large proportion of the Society's income.

Raising Funds for The Bible Society of India and Ceylon

P. Mahanty

The Society's task

THERE IS NOTHING SPECIAL or original in the methods adopted by our Society for raising funds. It is our common experience that those who have found Life in the Word of God need no persuasion to contribute to the Society which spreads that Word. People are grateful to the Society which has undertaken this task for the Church and support it by prayer and whatever material gifts they can afford. Many of these gifts come in very small amounts, which represent real sacrificial giving. Many contributors have sent in gifts of their own accord without anyone having approached them, and numerous contributions are received as an expression of gratitude for the Word of God.

The most important method, therefore, is to hold up the Word of God and to exhort and encourage people to place the Scriptures at the centre of their daily lives. To this end various means are adopted; a programme to ensure a Bible in every Christian home; the provision of helps and guides on how to read and use the Bible; and encouragement in the formation of Bible study and prayer groups. These methods help to give the Word of God its rightful place in the life of the individual, the home and the church. Where the Word of God has been given a central place, support for its distribution comes as a matter of course.

Knowledge of the Society and what it does and how it works is also helpful in raising funds. People who know about the work of the Bible Society contribute whatever they can afford and do not need any special inducement. The aim therefore is to help people to know what the task of the Bible Society is. Most of the publicity is directed towards this end. The foremost importance of the work makes it own appeal.

Membership

The Society attempts to maintain close contact with the churches. As it succeeds in this endeavour the support from churches and institutions increases. At the same time, the Society stresses the importance of individuals being members of the Society. It is important that each Auxiliary secretary should have a large number of interested men and women behind him, praying for him and his committees, for the wider spread of Scriptures in the area and for the work of the Auxiliary generally. Every member is given a prayer card with subjects for prayer each day. Appeals for such individual membership are made in churches, during deputation tours and through personal letters. The response to these appeals is encouraging and the membership of the Society is steadily increasing year by year.

Besides support in prayer, members pay an annual subscription of a minimum of Rs. 5. Many pay more. Our aim is to enlist 100,000 members in our Society. They will be in close personal relationship with the Auxiliary secretaries in their respective areas, supporting them in their work not only in prayer but also through their annual subscriptions.

Life members

Those who can afford to do so become life members by donating Rs. 100. The number thus enlisted is increased by about 125 each year. These life members contribute considerable strength to the Society, but their help and support would be even more valuable if they became annual life members! Many of them pay Rs. 100 or more every year and we are deeply grateful to them.

Legacies and endowments

Income from this source is becoming more and more a welcome feature of our financial support.

One-pice-a-day tins

One-pice-a-day tins are a simple and effective means of broadening the basis of support, by which anyone, even the poorest, can participate in the task of the Society. Tins, usually empty cigarette tins, are distributed by Auxiliary secretaries. (A special Bible Society label is provided to stick on the outside). One who receives a tin keeps it in his or her home and drops into it every day at least a pice—the smallest coin—as a token of gratitude for the Word of God. If this is done regularly the amount collected by the end of the year is usually over Rs. 5 and this entitles the person to membership of the Society. Considerable sums are collected by this means.

Many members of Auxiliary committees take a personal interest in this method and undertake the responsibility for the distribution of tins. Mr. A. S. Karat, a member of the Bombay Auxiliary committee, collects for the Society over Rs. 1,000 a year by means of these tins. On one occasion when Mr. Karat visited a widow's home, he gave out tins to some in the house but omitted to give one to the widow. "Why have you not given me a tin?", asked the widow. "Is it because you think that, being a widow, I cannot contribute?" The widow was given a tin and when it was returned after a few months and opened, Mr. Karat was greatly surprised to find it contained Rs. 8/8.

The Rev. W. Park Rankin, secretary of the Bombay Auxiliary, tells of a poor woman who lived in a hut in a slum. She contributed Rs. 8/9 through a pice-a-day tin. "A very large sum", says Mr. Park Rankin, "when all things are considered".

Special efforts

Considerable financial support is raised by means of religious plays, pageants, Bring and Buy sales, fêtes, etc., mostly by women's groups throughout the Society. Among the most active are the groups in the Ceylon and Bombay areas. A most successful fête was one in Assam during September, 1958, when our young and energetic secretary there, Mr. R. W. Philip, raised over Rs. 6,000.

Fellowship groups

Bible study and prayer fellowship groups have recently been organised in one of our Auxiliaries. The members of these groups are largely young people who pay only four annas a year. They meet together for Bible reading and prayer, help in distributing Scriptures and collect funds for the Society. I am hoping that such groups will be organised in other Auxiliaries.

Auxiliary branches

The greatest source of strength to the Auxiliaries are their branches. These branches are opened in important towns and cities and have the co-operation and support of all the denominations in the area. They organise Bible study and prayer groups, help to raise financial support and develop a feeling of oneness among different sections of the Church for the common task of distributing Scriptures. Some of the branches raise considerable sums of money for the Society. Among the most active of the branches are those in the Bombay Auxiliary. Two branches there, namely, Poona and Ahmeadabad, together collect in contributions nearly as much as the North-West India Auxiliary and considerably more than the Bangalore Auxiliary.

Over and above the support received from Auxiliary branches, secretaries enlist voluntary collectors who act as their agents in the various churches to collect contributions. These agents are usually influential people in their areas and are a great help to the secretaries.

Our countries, India and Ceylon, are large in population and in area. The Church, in comparison, is small in number and poor in resources. Yet there is a steadily-growing recognition throughout the Church in general of the urgency of an adequate distribution of the Word of God. This growing recognition leads to an increasing interest in their own Bible Society. Its tremendous task is increasingly on the heart and in the prayer of the Church. Consequently contributions and support have grown steadily over the years. From an average contribution per year of about Rs. 76,000 in the years from 1945-1949, it has grown to nearly Rs. 200,000. This is some progress, but it is still utterly inadequate. This total can be at least five times as much if all sections of the Church offer their support at the same level as in the Ceylon or Bombay Auxiliaries. They surely will if they know of the largeness and urgency of the task of the Bible Society.

Where the churches do not know much about the work of the Bible Society, little support is found. The country is large and distances are great and, in many areas, especially in the north, the Church consists of small units scattered over a wide area. A single Auxiliary secretary has for his area a region nearly as large as the entire United Kingdom, and it is difficult for him to maintain close contact with many of the churches. But knowledge of the work of the Society is gradually spreading. Publicity is largely in the regional languages and is broadcast in the churches. But where it is reinforced by personal contact with the auxiliary secretary, the response is glad and generous.

The Society has to base its support broadly on the rank and file of the Church. Only in that way can it grow and be strong. The Society is on the right road if it has the assurance that it is putting forth its best effort. Then support from abroad will take its right place. This help from abroad is necessary. The total task is one; it is indivisible. The work is the Lord's and the resources for the work are also His. Those who possess them are His stewards. But unless each Society is striving its utmost we are in danger of drifting into an irresponsible position, a situation of perpetual dependence for our very life.

Progress may be slow, but the Society is moving towards its goal—the ever strengthening support of the rank and file, here and everywhere, to fulfil the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The Significance of a National Bible Society—
as seen from India

William Stewart

WHEN, IN 1944, the British and Foreign Bible Society took the final steps which enabled the newly-formed Bible Society of India and Ceylon to emerge and accept responsibility in its own territory, it was taking a pioneering step in a direction which has become the commonplace of the missionary movement to-day. Everywhere it is now assumed that missionary societies must find the means to "integrate" their work into the life of the Church in the territories with which they are concerned, recognising that the whole future depends on the development of Christian work which is really rooted in the soil. But this was not a commonplace in 1944; and it is a tribute to the vision of those responsible both in England and in India that the development took place.

The Event

The key to understanding this vision is that those concerned perceived that what matters in Christian work is not just the actual work done at a particular time, but equally, or more vitally, the development of such conditions that the work may go on and grow in the future. But if this second aim is to be achieved, then most certainly the work must be rooted in the actual life and purpose of the Christian Church of the land concerned; steps must be taken to remove the handicap of "foreignness" and to liberate the creative, responsible energies of the Church there. A new centre of gravity has to be accepted, which is no longer in the old-established centre, thousands of miles away. Such a venture, the acceptance of such a change, is costly and may well seem dangerous, but in 1944, men had the courage to make the venture. We may well ask whether these fourteen years have justified their courage.

The Outcome

(1) There are figures which speak for themselves. My readiest comparison is with 1952, the last year in which I was in Britain. In 1952 the Bible Society of India and Ceylon had 37 branches up and down the land; to-day it has 77. In 1952 it had about 5,000 subscribing members; to-day it has 15,000. In 1952, 200 of these were life members; to-day there are 800. In 1952, subscriptions raised in India and Ceylon totalled about £9,000; in 1957, they totalled £15,000. Comparing the figures of distribution, those for 1957 are about double those for 1952.

(2) Again, it is an impressive fact that the young Society has been able to recruit for its service large numbers of people of the highest quality and consecration. I am not here thinking only of the full-time workers, the secretaries and others, but also of those who, as Presidents, Vice-Presidents and members of Auxiliary Committees, and as members of the Council of the Society, willingly give their time and energy to its affairs. This Society, which appeals equally to almost every Christian denomination, has shown an enviable ability to win this kind of loyal service. It is difficult to believe that support on such a scale could ever have been expected by a Society which carried a purely foreign name. Equally striking has been the possibility of the Society contributing to international work, where I need only mention what our late General Secretary, Mr. Mahanty, has done to illustrate my point.

(3) This recruitment of consecrated ability has led to imaginative development of new Auxiliaries and branches. It was natural in the earlier years that the Society should have been concentrated at the various Presidency headquarters; but an alert national Society quickly found itself asking if the pattern corresponded to the real needs and opportunities of the day. In consequence, since 1944, we have seen the development of new Auxiliaries with headquarters in Delhi and in Secunderabad, in populous Kerala and in the midst of a vigorously evangelistic church in Assam.

(4) Finally, every year has seen imagination being applied to new methods of distribution and development of the work, suited to the Indian scene: the open Bible, the recruitment of the churches for Bible distribution, the "Bible in every Christian home" campaign, the printing of the "Good News" in newspapers and so many more.

No one would suggest that none of these things could have happened through the work of an "Agency". Of course, some or all of them might have happened. But one may seriously doubt whether they would have happened on the scale and with the vigour with which they have taken place, or if the Christian imagination could have been so effectively kindled without a national Society.

Implications

There are certain implications of the step which was taken in 1944, which we must needs always keep in mind:

(*a*) We have to learn that the creation of an autonomous Society does not automatically rule out the dangers of the old pattern of patronage or dependence. So long as a Society in fact continues to depend on considerable support from outside, there is always the possibility of the autonomy being set in doubt by some pressure from that outside source of help. That is why it is so important that the supporting Societies should, not just in a first deliberate action, but continuously, really respect the autonomy of the new Society. This does not at all exclude the fullest consultation and exchange of advice, but if we are to be able to count on the fullest and most responsible action being taken in a country like India, then the persons responsible there must really know themselves to be responsible. It would strenthen that consciousness, to my mind, if greater emphasis could be laid on the importance, for purposes of consultation, of visits by representatives of the supporting Societies, rather than primarily on dealing with problems through correspondence. For it is only in this way that the parent bodies can enter fully into the thinking of those engaged in the work on the field.

(*b*) Of comparable importance is the possibility of the new Society building up its own capital resources, which will be in its own territory and under its own jurisdiction. It is a plain fact that none of this work is being done without certain capital installations, often in the shape of residences, depots, printing works and the like. Whatever the future may contain, any Society would be glad to face it with the physical equipment that this represents, and it is hard to win through to a sense of confidence if such resources are all either in another country or under different control.

(*c*) Finally, we have become conscious of the great importance of strengthening the society in other ways which are equally of a capital, or long-term, character and which belong to the life of a complete, well-rounded society able to play its part.

(i) There is the whole continuing task of translation and the revision of translations—work which is going on now in India and Ceylon on massive scale and which certainly will continue in the future. Now the Translations Department in London, and more recently the magnificent co-operation which is exemplified in the publication of *The Bible Translator*, are there to teach anyone who has any awareness at all, of the immense value of wide co-operation in this matter and I know of no one in India who would minimise this in the slightest. But surely it is equally manifest that if this work is going to be done properly in a great land like India, it is going to call for the harnessing and the development of real scholarship among the trained personnel of the country itself. The country has its theological colleges, in some of which there already are notable libraries of books relevant to Bible translation, and in which there are members of staff whose own languages are among those calling out for fresh translations and revisions. This is why a contribution like that of a Translation Adviser, such as we had in Mr. Moulton and have again in Mr. Culshaw is one of these far-reaching contributions whose effects are seen not just in the work done to-day or this year but which will go on with cumulative consequences in the decades ahead.

(ii) Quite similar is the development of a proper "Production" department within the territory. Readers of the English Bible have little notion of how favoured they are in the vast variety of editions for every purpose and for every occasion. Compared with these, how much waits to be done to develop such editions and to meet such varied needs within India and Ceylon! And here too is a field in which it would be perilous folly to assume that the Society could indefinitely import its ready-made stocks from overseas. Actually it was as long ago as in 1949, when the Society decided to transfer its headquarters to Bangalore, that the need for this development was a big factor in reaching that decision; for in Bangalore there could be effective co-operation with the Christian Literature Society. It is a heartening thing that this year, through the generosity of the Scottish Society, a Publications Manager has been appointed.

(iii) Lastly one must refer to the immense value that continues to be found in the personal contribution given by members of the staff sent out from England. When these come into the Indian Society, to serve within it in that unity which we are given in Christ, their contribution can be richly multiplied through what they can pass on from another experience. This is happening, both in certain Auxiliaries and in the headquarters staff with a person like Miss Harrison, and,

since our common concern is not the honour of one Society or another, but that the work of Christ may go on, it is in its ability to give such a contribution as this that the parent Society can still take much satisfaction.

I rejoice in the value of a national Society, but I rejoice quite as much in the fact that this is a great international movement. It is not "Independence" which matters so much, but it is "Interdependence", and I believe that when once the real strength of a national Society has been recognised and its autonomy truly respected, then the sister societies in this great movement are really in a position to share their strength in facing the common task which is one in all the world. It is an immense unfinished task which the Bible Society of India and Ceylon and the supporting Societies face in India to-day. The fact that we of the B.S.I.C. are not alone in coping with it gives us great encouragement. For our one purpose is that Christ may be glorified.

News From All The World

Africa

For the first time a conference bringing together most of the Bible Society secretaries at work in Africa south of the Sahara took place in Salisbury, in November. All those secretaries have taken up their present responsibility since the war. Most of the time at the conference was devoted to a general review of problems of administration, production and distribution, necessitated by the considerable development of Bible Society activities all over Africa in recent years and the many opportunities opening up for further development. The Rev. J. T. Watson represented the London headquarters of the British and Foreign Bible Society at the conference.

Africa: West

The secretary of Bible House in Casablanca (a branch of the Geneva Maison de la Bible) and a colporteur, visited various areas of French Equatorial Africa recently during two long colportage tours. They reported that in Mauritania, the vast territory west of the Sahara, there is not a single missionary, the population consisting mostly of nomads. Many Touaregs encountered on the way were quick to purchase the Scriptures, taking them along with them in their wanderings across the desert. One case encouraged them greatly. A village priest told them that a long time ago one of his nephews had seen a bilingual Gospel in Arabic and French at the Saint Louis Public Library in Senegal. He was intrigued and took it home; he read it and was converted. Then the young native went to talk about his discovery to his uncle the priest, who strongly disapproved of his "heresy" and told him in no uncertain terms what he had to do. But as time passed, the priest noticed such a change in the young man's life that he too was convinced that Jesus Christ was the Way. The priest congratulated the colporteurs on their work and told them that now was the time to spread the Scriptures in Africa before it was too late. The testimony of the young Christian furthermore opened up the whole of his village to the Gospel, and the visitors were able to leave many copies of the Word in homes where people were ready for its message.

The colporteurs also reported that in the area extending between southern Mauritania and Sierra Leone, all schools were visited and the Bible left

in them after the teachers had been told of their responsibility to read the Scriptures and teach the truths contained in them to the generation of to-morrow. In the town of Kaolack, where there had not been a single copy of the Bible, one hundred and thirty Bibles were sold in three days. At Conakry, the capital of Guinea, 350 Bibles were sold.

Argentina

Senor Th. Mulder, one of the first graduates of the Penzotti Institute, reported the following, about his first year of activity in Argentina: Scripture distribution campaigns conducted in 12 churches and 2 campaigns in Bible institutes; consultations with 78 pastors and assistants preparatory to organising the campaigns; courses in Scripture distribution given in 16 holiday camps, retreats, etc.; 46 sermons and addresses delivered representing the Bible Societies in Argenina; and a full month in Rosario assisting the local Bible Society staff to organise Scripture distribution campaigns.

Sr. Muller's report glows with descriptions of young people proceeding hesitantly at first to undertake voluntary colportage on the streets of Cordoba, Rosario and Buenos Aires, but who return from their first efforts enthusiastic about the opportunity for Christian witness which they found and the personal satisfactions which followed. Concerning one experience he writes: "Naturally everybody was a little bit nervous as they were trying out something new". However, when they had finished their first day's efforts, "it was quite impressive to see the young men telling of their experiences and repeating some of the conversations held during the afternoon". At another place they were required to get permission from the local police officer to sell Scriptures on the street and the group was exceedingly timid about the whole experiment, but Mulder reports: "The greatest blessing of all was that when we went to take leave of the Chief of Police he asked us if we would not sell him a Bible too!"

Austria

On Sunday, October 12th, last a memorial was unveiled at Oberschützen in Burgenland, to a Protestant pastor, Gottlieb August Wimmer, who was pastor of this small parish from 1818-1848. During the period of his activity in the small village, which now has a population of 800, Pastor Wimmer opened a grammar school and a teachers' training college. He also did a tremendous amount for the economic and cultural development of the village. Of special significance however was his achievement in the realm of Bible distribution. During twelve years of close co-operation with the British and Foreign Bible Society, Pastor Wimmer distributed approximately 340,000 Scriptures in many languages in the whole area of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This fact was specially recalled in an address given at the unveiling of the memorial by Herr Karl Uhl, Secretary of the *Austrian Bible Committee*.

*

Following the UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES International Youth Conference in Landskron, Kärnten, last summer, the Austrian participants have decided for form a working group, having the following aims:

1. To organise and undertake the work of Bible distribution in evangelical and free church parishes.
2. To organise and give lectures to youth groups of the evangelical and free church parishes.
3. Through regular meetings together to have the possibility of enchanging experiences and encouraging new ways of working.

The youth group took part in the unveiling of the memorial to Pastor Wimmer.

■

At its last annual meeting, in September 1958, the Austrian Bible Committee agreed to develop the celebration of Bible Sunday and towards this end to encourage the organisation of special meetings under the auspices of the Committee in all the main cities of the country. Hitherto such meetings have been held only in Vienna.

The Committee also envisaged supplying military chaplains with Scriptures for the Army and it was agreed to study the question with a view to taking positive action.

Finally, the Austrian Bible Committee agreed that a special appeal should be made to friends of the Bible Society for funds to be used for providing a Scripture edition for the mission field. After clearance with London, it is proposed to print the first New Testament in Ilamba, spoken in Tanganyika. This publication will be the first undertaken by the Austrian Bible Committee for a field abroad.

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Contributions from churches and private donors increased by almost 30% in Austria in 1958, reaching a total of over 54,000 Austrian Schillings.

Belgium

The *Belgian Bible Society* reports the following distribution at the Brussels World Exhibition, at the Bible Society booths in the Protestant Pavilion, at Expobible and in the Congo Pavilion:

More than 7,000 Bibles, New Testaments and Gospels, in over 175 languages, were sold at the Brussels Exhibition at the Protestant Churches' Pavilion and at the Expobible (the Bible stall erected below the large illuminated Bible). In addition, more than half-a-million free copies of selections from the Scriptures, specially produced for the occasion, including the Sermon on the Mount and Bible tracts on the theme of the Exhibition, were distributed in some 15 languages. This service was carried out by the Belgian Bible Society, with the help of local voluntary workers, and was financed by various national Bible Societies which are members of the United Bible Societies, and by the Scripture Gift Mission of London.

Brazil

The *Bible Society of Brazil* reports that in 1958 contributions from the churches more than doubled in comparison with the previous year, and amounted to over Cr.$1,300,000 (£3,757). There is also an increase of over Cr.$300,000 (£867) in membership fees.

*

Roman Catholics in Brazil have been circulating a four-page leaflet promoting the distribution of 100,000 Bibles in the Valley of Itajai. It was stated that the goal of the campaign was to place a book in each home during the year 1958. The leaflet in question contains quotations from E. Castallar, Emperor Don Pedro II, Daniel Webster and Queen Victoria. It states: "The Holy Bible is a safe guide in the path of life. Jesus Christ is the great object in the Sacred Scriptures". Several quotations from the Bible are also printed in it. The leaflet gives four rules for fruitful reading of the Holy Scriptures. It advertises Bibles printed on ordinary and fine paper and New Testaments in ordinary and better bindings. Prices of Bibles range from $1.90 to $3.75 and of Testaments from 44 cents to 75 cents.

*

It is estimated that about 10,000 people attended the rally held on Bible Sunday last August at Praca Patriarca in Sao Paulo. The rally was organised by the Bible Society of Brazil and was under the direction of the Rev. Benedito N. Quintanilha, Regional Secretary of the Sao Paulo area. Similar meetings were held in Recife and Rio de Janeiro. Bible

Sunday was widely publicised in Brazil in the secular papers as well as in the evangelical periodicals.

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Over 5,000 Bibles, Testaments and Portions were sold in a twelve weeks open-air book fair held recently in Rio de Janeiro. The booth created considerable interest on the part of all attending the fair.

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The Bible Society of Brazil is to give up the production of small type Gospels. The success of the 80-page Gospel published in the U.S.A. has encouraged the Society to produce and circulate only the large-size type Gospels.

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A Bible course for the preparation of Bible study group leaders is taking place next February in Sao Paulo, under the auspices of the Student Christian Movement, the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches and the Latin American Union of Evangelical Youth.

England

The *British and Foreign Bible Society* published a new edition of the Hebrew Old Testament last December. The editor is Dr. Norman H. Snaith, Principal and also Old Testament tutor at Wesley College, Leeds.

The new text replaces the former Letteris edition printed in Vienna for the Society many times during the last 92 years. The text is based on the first hands of Spanish Hebrew manuscripts to be found in the British Museum, together with the Shem Tob manuscript. The text, however, is close to that of Professor Kahle in the third edition of the Kittel Bible of the Stuttgart Bible Society, which is based on the Leningrad manuscript.

The major difference between the present edition and that of Professor Kahle is that here the Masoretic traditions as to spacing, etc., have been followed as closely as possible. There is no Masorah and, following the Society's policy, no footnotes except the official Masoretic notes. Extreme care has also been taken in respect of the accents, both in prose books and in verse books.

Dr. Snaith has described the new work as a "popular Bible for ordinary folk", but it will also be a standard work for students. This publication is also the first with printed Hebrew type to be set by monotype process. The publication price is 17/6d.

*

Two hundred copies of Bibles printed in Armenian Ararat were sent in November from the headquarters of the British and Foreign Bible Society to a destination in Soviet Armenia. Referred to by Bible Society officials as "the first such consignment for many years", the bulk package was part of a Bible Society programme that involves the sending out of Scriptures from the London Bible House at an average rate of six tons every working day.

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The twenty-fifth anniversary of the translation of the Bible into Afrikaans was marked by the B.F.B.S. by the presentation of a specially bound and inscribed copy to Sir John Maud, G.C.B., C.B.E., at a ceremony at Bible House, London, on October 24. Sir John is H.M. High Commissioner Designate for Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, and High Commissioner Designate in the Union of South Africa forH.M. Government in the United Kingdom. The presentation was made by Lord Verulam and the new High Commissioner of South Africa in London was also present.

*

The B.F.B.S. published, last autumn, an edition of St. John's Gospel in Irawk, the first portion in that language. It is spoken in the south of Tanganyika by a tribe numbering over 100,000, of whom one quarter are

literate. The translation was made by a missionary, Miss A. Strom, with the help of four Africans.

The B.F.B.S. has also published Gospels in large type for new literates in Kamba (Mark), Dagbane (Mark), Ewe (John) and Kikuyu (Mark).

The translation of the Old Testament in Luchazi (Angola and Northern Rhodesia) has been received and accepted. The Rev. E. Pearson has completed the work with the help of four Luchazi and one Mbunda assistants. A trial edition of Genesis has been produced before proceeding with the remainder of the Old Testament. The tribe numbers about half a million people with a community of 3,000-4,000 literates. The New Testament was printed in 1935.

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At the suggestion of the local Fraternal of Ministers, and under the direction of the U.B.S. Study Secretary, the Rev. E. H. Robertson, an experimental "Bible Week" in the pattern of the now traditional German "Bible Weeks" was organised at the beginning of December in Yeovil, Somerset. All the ministers met together for joint study of the four parables of the Kingdom. People were encouraged to prepare themselves for the week and were helped to do so by appropriate leaflets and articles in the press. On the first Sunday of the Bible week sermons were preached in the churches of Yeovil on the theme of the week. On the four successive evenings each of the parables was expounded at united services in the parish church and possibilities for free discussion in the church hall afterwards were used by many in the audience. During the week the B.B.C. early morning programme, (five minutes) called "Lift Up Your Hearts", took the form of discussions between one of the ministers and a layman on the application to the life of Yeovil of the parable expounded at the united service on the previous evening.

France

Last summer a group of young people undertook to spend a fortnight of their holiday doing colportage in the south-west of France under the leadership of one of the colporteurs of the *French Bible Committee*. The work was done in teams of two, going from door to door in four villages. The success of the experiment has led the members of the team to offer their services for another year.

Germany

The *Bavarian Central Bible Society*, under its new President Pastor Hölzel (Nürnberg), has become one of the most active Bible Societies in Germany.

In addition to regular Bible-mission work—two Bible missionaries are constantly engaged in visiting the parishes and the large refugee camps in Roman Catholic Bavaria—the Bible Society has arranged for the exhibition to the public of valuable Bible treasures from the museums and libraries of Bavaria.

Last October an important Bible exhibition, opened by Bishop May (Wien), was shown in the castle of the university town of Erlangen. The director of the university library, Professor Dr. Redenbacher, gave a lecture on "Problems of Bible Illustration in the early Middle Ages". The exhibition contained a surprising quantity of rare historical Bible manuscripts and editions, beginning with a papyrus from Oxarhynchos, of the 4th century, and ending with a Chagall Bible.

In November a Bible celebration took place in Erlangen, in which the university professors of theology took part. A service, conducted by Prof. Dr. von Loewenich and in which the secretary of the *Union of German Bible Societies*, Dr. Müller, took part, was held in the church, following a meeting in the afternoon when Pastor Caufriez and Pastor Lutjeharms of the Belgian Bible Society spoke.

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Thirty-five million Bibles, New Testaments and Portions (including the Kittel Hebrew Old Testament, Nachschlagewerk, etc.) have been issued by the presses of the *Stuttgart Bible Society* since Dr. E. Diehl joined the Society forty years ago. In 1924 he took over the direction of that Bible publishing house in Stuttgart, which now employs about 200 workers. The list of the new editions which the Society has produced during that period would be too long to quote here. There are the Menge and the Schlachter Bibles, the editions illustrated by Schäfer and the Senfkorn Bible are the most important in German. The Kittel Old Testament, the Ralph Septuaginta, the Greek and Hebrew concordances also all appeared during that time. New German translations were also produced (those of Thimme, Schlatter), as well as various editions for the mission field and for the blind.

Not least of Dr. Diehl's services has been the reconstruction of the printing plants—six buildings—which were almost completely destroyed in July, 1944, during an air raid.

"The Bible in the life of the Church" was the theme of a theological conference organised last summer by the German national committee of the Lutheran World Federation. Seventy theologians, mainly from Germany, with some visitors from Holland, Scandinavia and the U.S.A., took part in the study, which dealt with the following points : the authority of the Bible ; the Bible in the teaching of the Church ; the Bible in the order of the Church ; the Bible in the worship of the Church. Each subject was introduced by two speakers, one German and one foreign.

Haiti

The manuscript of the New Testament in Haitian Creole is now almost complete. Matthew, Mark, Revelation and a number of Epistles have already been printed. The first steps in the production of a New Testament and Psalms have already been taken. Whereas Haitian Creole Portions, which are intended mainly for new readers, are printed in 12-point type and illustrated, the New Testament is being set in 8-point type. As spelling has still not been regularised in Haitian Creole and the language is somewhat fluid, the publications are issued on a trial basis, with a view to a possible more accurate revision, orthographical and otherwise, according to the needs expressed.

Hungary

Scripture printing in Hungary has been resumed after some delay in the Spring. For the first time since the war an edition of 5,000 large-size Bibles (16x24cm) has been issued, particularly intended for old people and family use. An edition of 40,000 copies of the ordinary size Bible went to press in Pécs at the end of 1958.

*

The *Hungarian Bible Council* also reports new developments in the work. It now has 30 members: 16 belonging to the Reformed Church, 10 Lutheran, 2 Baptist, while the Methodist Church and the Council of the Free Churches are both represented by 1 member each. The work of the Presidium is supported by a General Secretary, a Secretary, an Administrative Secretary and a Parish Secretary.

Work on the new Bible translation made great progress during 1958. The commission on the translation of the Old Testament, which normally meets monthly, had a working session of a full month in June last. The Book of Psalms has been completed and a trial edition of it will be published soon. The revision committee worked on Jeremiah at its last meeting in December. This was the 96th session since the work started in 1948. The numerous comments received on the trial edition of

the New Testament have now been processed and work on the final text of the New Testament is to begin shortly. The Council has made the important decision of lowering the price of the Bible.

The Bible Council has declared it desirable that, in future, the member churches observe the annual Bible Sunday on the same day of the year. In view of the connection between the Holy Scriptures and the Reformation, the most suitable day seemed to be a Sunday near the 31st October, Reformation Day. Following the appeal, Bible Sunday was celebrated in many churches on 26th October last. For the first time a sermon outline related to Bible Society work and Bible mission was proposed as from the Bible Council to the pastors, for that day. Many congregations also held a Bible Week on Ruth, for which the Rev. Dr. G. Groó, parish secretary of the Hungarian Bible Council, prepared study outlines. Dr. Groó also visited various parishes and pastoral conventions in the course of the year.

Israel

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its foundation, the State of Israel organised an international Bible contest. This anniversary was celebrated in various ways, but the most striking event was the international Bible contest, held at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The contest aroused a great deal of interest. Of the 2,500 seats available in the amphitheatre of the University, 1,300 were occupied by members of the government, of the diplomatic corps, by representatives of the press and radio, and by religious leaders—Jewish, Christian and Muslim. The remaining seats were occupied by the public, thousands having to remain outside.

Delegates from fourteen countries took part in the contest. They had been selected on the basis of national Bible contests on the radio or otherwise, which had been held previously. Most of the countries which are predominantly Roman Catholic (Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina) were nevertheless represented by Protestants, while France was represented by a Jew and a Protestant! There were in all two Jews, three Roman Catholics and ten Protestants.

The whole contest had been carefully organised. A hundred questions (limited to the Old Testament) had been prepared by a jury, consisting of a Protestant Pastor (of the American Baptist Mission), a Roman Catholic priest, a Rabbi and a member of the Society for Biblical Research. The proceedings started in the morning with a first set of three rounds of questions. The first series related to personalities of the Bible whom the contestants had to identify.

The second series of questions concerned the habits and customs of people in biblical times. The third round dealt with rather difficult questions concerning passages in Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel. The final round took place in the presence of the President and Prime Minister of Israel. This time three series of fifteen questions were asked of the competitors, who came individually before the jury. After each series an elimination of the weaker candidates took place. Only three competed in the last set of fifteen questions.

The final result gave the first place to Amos Hacham (Israel), the second and third respectively to Simone Dumont (France) and Irene Santos (Brazil), both Protestants. In order to ensure that the contest retained its moral and spiritual value, the organisers decided that there should be no money prizes. Instead, the first prize was an ancient vase; the second an ancient coin; and the third a gold medallion souvenir of the 10th anniversary of Israel.

The aim of the contest, which had been to give a place of honour to the Bible and to awaken in a large number of people the desire to read and study it, was certainly achieved, for sales of the Bible, in both Jewish and Christian circles, rose steeply before the contest and interest in it increased tremendously both during and following the contest. One Israeli journalist expressed the hope that this was only the beginning of a spiritual awakening in Israel and in the world. Simone Dumont wrote a detailed account of the contest in "La Bible dans le Monde", the quarterly journal of the French Bible Committee.

Japan

Considerable damage was caused to stocks of paper and Scriptures by flooding in the *Japan Bible Society's* warehouse last September, when Tokyo and many parts of Japan were stricken by the worst typhoon that people can recall. Fortunately, the stocks at the bindery did not suffer, as the person in charge of that plant ordered all his 50 workers to take the Scripture stocks, bound and unbound, to safety.

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The "Japan Christian Activity News" reported as follows on Bible study groups in the Japan Self-Defence Forces last summer:

To imagine an officially recognised Bible study group within the old Japanese Army and Navy system is quite difficult. However, in to-day's Japanese self-defence forces, several such groups exist and with official sanction. One of these is in Shikaya, the Navy Air Force centre, where two years ago a few Christians stationed there started a Bible class. As the attendance grew, they applied to their service section to have their Bible class recognised as a regular club activity. Their commanders gave them immediate clearance and also, with official recognition, a place to meet in and an annual grant of Yen 15,000 (£15). The Bible study group meets once a week with a local pastor as their teacher. The forty-eight members who now make up the group include officers and men of various ranks, as well as men and women from various offices and ground crews. The Japan Bible Society is in close touch with the situation and is providing the men with the Scriptures they require.

Lebanon

Circulation in the Lebanon decreased by about 16% in 1958, compared with the previous year, owing to the troubled situation of the country. The sale of complete Bibles, however, showed a very slight increase. Because of the troubles, the vast distribution campaign which had been planned and prepared in detail for the Bekaa Valley, in co-operation with the various evangelical churches and missions, had to be cancelled at the last moment. Work in the sub-agency, however, was restored to normal later in the autumn, but the country has not yet recovered from the shock, and the bitterness and hatred which were aroused will take some time to subside.

Luxembourg

Mr. F. Siegenthaler, a Swiss Bible Society colporteur working under the direction of the Belgian Bible Society, has received authorisation after a year's waiting, to sell Scriptures on the market place and to offer and take orders for Scriptures in Luxembourg; door to door sales are still forbidden. Until he received this permit, Mr. Siegenthaler worked in the German-speaking part of Belgium.

Mexico

As a result of a conference on Indian work, sponsored by the A.B.S. Mexico Agency and held last spring with 40 national pastors and foreign missionaries from some fourteen denominations and missions, the Agency has now gone ahead with the forma-

tion of an evangelical committee on Indian problems in Mexico. This is to function as an unofficial advisory body made up of persons from the churches and missions who have responsibility for different aspects of Indian work in the country. This committee is to seek various ways of making available to church leaders, and to others in Mexico, information about the work that is being done and which needs to be done in achieving a more effective use of the Bible among Mexico's Indians; at the same time the committee is to help the A.B.S. to discover how it can best serve the churches in this important task by making available to them the Scriptures in the form that will be most useful for each of the different situations that confront them.

Reporting on the conference itself, Dr. Wm. Wonderly, consultant in Mexico for the A.B.S. Translations Department, writes:

During the past decade and a half the Bible Society has published Scripture portions in over 30 Indian languages of Mexico, including a complete New Testament in one of them, and is now being called upon to publish New Testaments in several others. With this investment in the Scriptures for these peoples, it was felt to be highly important that a serious study be made of how these Scriptures are being used, and to bring together people from various organisations and different parts of the country who are responsible for their use, with a view to sharing experiences and ideas that would make for a more effective use of the Word of God among the Indians.

It was gratifying to hear reports from the field of the Tzeltal Indians of Chiapas, in whose language the Bible Society published the New Testament two years ago, and from the Chol field of the same state, for which the Society now has the New Testament in the hands of the printer. To the Chol Indians, the preaching of the Gospel is especially oriented to meet the fears which these people have of the spirit world and the power of the witch doctor; and their pagan custom of killing animals in sacrifice to the spirits is made a point of departure for bringing to them the message of Christ.

Hearts were warmed in listening to the account by Vanancio Hernandez, a converted Otomi Indian from one of the perenially drought-striken areas of Mexico, as he told of the effects of the Bible in the lives of his fellow countrymen, and of the way in which among them there has sprung up a truly indigenous church movement in which men and women who formerly lived in ignorance and poverty have now begun to work together as Christian brethren for their mutual strengthening and for the application of the Bible message to every aspect of their lives, material and spiritual. Here, as in other areas of Mexico, the Scriptures in the language of the people have been an important means of bringing about this all-pervading change in their lives.

Netherlands

The *Netherlands Bible Society* maintains contact with its members by mailing them folders three or four times a year. They contain, apart from news of some of the Auxiliaries, a review of the work in general, each issue at the same time focussing on one particular aspect of the work. But for No. 3 of the ninth series, published on Reformation Day 1958, this procedure was changed. This time, a Bible newspaper of 24 pages was published. It was sent to the N.B.S. members, numbering over 165,000 and it also appeared as a supplement to one of the Dutch Christian newspapers. Thus an edition of about 300,000 copies was distributed. A few pages were sold beforehand to advertisers. Fourteen pages were filled by expert articles on the Bible, the history of the Bible, etc. The editorial part bore an ecumenical stamp, since contributors were sought from those belonging to the different

Dutch Protestant churches. The last two pages were entirely devoted to membership enrolment and a price-list of Bibles and Portions.

The press paid a good deal of attention to this edition and reactions, received from many different quarters, were unanimous in their appreciation. A copy of this edition can be sent to any of our readers interested, on application.

Pakistan

In the course of a recent visit to Rawalpindi, Mr. P. N. Joshua, Secretary of the B.F.B.S. in Pakistan, presented a copy of the Bible to the Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army, General Muhammad Ayub Khan. The General is a Muslim, but expressed deep appreciation of the gift and an assurance that it would be read. He also promised to issue an order requiring copies of the Bible to be available in all regimental libraries.

Philippines

The Gospel of Mark is the first book to appear in Bilaan. The translation was made by a Filipino under the supervision of two experts of the Wycliffe Bible Translators. It was checked at a Bilaan translation conference with the Rev. L. Roble, the translations secretary of the Philippine Bible House. The Bilaan group numbers 25,000 members, of which a quarter are Christian and half of them literate.

*

The Philippine Bible House has recently been able to secure the assistance of a Chinese layman to do volunteer colportage work in the city of Manila. This man was formerly a financier, manager of a well-known business firm in the city. He left his business on the conviction that he should devote the remaining days of his life to Christian work by distributing Scriptures among the Chinese residents of the Philippines. His early efforts have been so successful that the Philippine Bible House has been unable to keep him supplied with the Chinese Scriptures he requires.

*

The Assemblies of God in the Philippines are planning a nation-wide evangelistic campaign in January, 1959. In this connection they have placed a large order for Scriptures with the Philippine Bible House, including 50,000 Tagalog St. John and 30,000 English St. John.

*

A special effort is being undertaken by the Philippine Bible House to enlist more voluntary colporteurs. The Rev. Angel Taglucop, Secretary, recently addressed the students of the Union Theological Seminary in Manila on the subject of evangelism through Scripture distribution, challenging them to become voluntary colporteurs during weekends and holidays. At the same time, parts of Dr. Chirgwin's "A Million Wanted" have been circulated in two different leaflets as a way of encouraging church members to take personal and active interest in the missionary circulation of the Scriptures.

A third leaflet has been published, "The Sower", which is a guide to the use of the Gospel of John and is in seven languages.

Scotland

It was in 1809 that the first fully established Bible Society was founded in Scotland, the Edinburgh Bible Society. This Society, along with the Glasgow Bible Society and other local societies, carried on very important work for many years. Then, in 1861, an amalgamation took place from which the National Bible Society of Scotland emerged, to represent Scotland in the work of the Bible Societies throughout the world.

The N.B.S.S. has now arranged a year's programme to commemorate

its Third Jubilee. This year of celebration started on the Second Sunday in Advent, which is traditionally observed as Bible Sunday in a number of churches. On that day the Third Jubilee Appeal was launched, aiming at collecting £100,000 in order : 1. to make the Bible better known in Scotland ; 2. to produce and publish urgently required new translations for Borneo ; 3. to support a Production Manager in India ; 4. to produce the large editions of Scriptures needed in several important African languages; 5. to help to build a new distribution centre for Rhodesia and Nyasaland ; 6. to participate in a Joint Agency in South America.

The actual day of celebration of the Third Jubilee will be Tuesday, April 28, with Dr. Martin Niemöller and Dr. Frank Laubach as speakers.

An exhibition, The Word that Works, will be held in April and May in Edinburgh and Bible rallies will be organised in the evenings and Bible studies or readings during the lunch hours. Speakers will also include the U.B.S. President, the Bishop of Bradford, Dr. N. J. Cockburn of the B.F.B.S., Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones of Westminster Chapel, London and the Rev. E. H. Robertson, U.B.S. Study Secretary.

Another highlight will be the Exhibition on Bible Illustration to be on show throughout the period of the Edinburgh Festival and which is to be related to the U.B.S. Study Conference on Bible Illustration. The same exhibition will also be shown in October in Glasgow.

During the year several Auxiliaries will also organise special services and a team of visiting speakers will tour the country in the autumn.

Switzerland

In order to develop interest in the Bible and Bible Society work among the churches, the *Swiss Bible Society* has set up a Bible exhibition for hire by local congregations. This is a new step in general effort to make Christians in Switzerland more Bible Society conscious. A number of regional meetings for church leaders are also planned for the spring.

*

During the course of 1958, the Swiss Bible Society made grants amounting to nearly £1,500 to Bible Society work in neighbouring countries and in Africa. It also covered the cost of colportage work in Luxembourg and supplied 3,000 illustrated selections in Tibetan and 9,000 copies of a booklet of selected passages for distribution at the Brussels International Exhibition.

In Switzerland itself, the Society has contributed a grant to the colportage work set up by the Société évangélique in Geneva and the evangelical churches.

Thailand

The Thailand Bible House recently secured special permission for placing Scripture racks at Don Muang Airport (Bangkok International) by Air Commodore Chochinasiri, Director General of the Airport. Each rack contains 150 copies of Scripture portions in assorted languages. One of the Thailand Bible House staff reported that he placed 100 copies of the Scripture portions in one of the racks on a recent Saturday. He waited and watched. Within an hour the entire 100 copies had been taken by as many international travellers passing through the air terminal building. As Secretary Ming Chao puts it: "The Scripture rack is working 24 hours a day to get the Word of God to these people".

Venezuela

The Rev. K. Bystrom, Secretary of the Venezuela Agency, made the experiment last spring of presenting about 50 illustrated mimeographed brochures on Bible Society work to various foreign companies operating

in that country. In most cases Secretary Bystrom paid a personal visit to the public relations or industrial relations men of the firms involved. So far the Agency has received about $2,400 from about two-fifths of the companies approached. Individual contributions have also been received from some staff members of companies whose policy does not allow of grants of that nature.

Secretary Bystrom comments further: In many instances the men express a vital personal interest in the Bible; some have their own copy—those who don't, usually ask for one. The man at the Telephone Company said he had been studying the Bible for years and the President asked for a copy of the English Bible. I gave him a complimentary copy from the Bible Agency. The man at the Light Company became interested in the Gospel portions and purchased 1,000 Sermon on the Mount and 1,000 Easter Gospels to be given out at the Light Company. Another business man purchased four dozen copies of the illustrated Gospels to give to his employees. All seem to be agreed that Venezuela needs the Bible and its teachings in order to make better citizens and employees. On only two occasions did I speak to men who frankly told me they were not interested. This new public relations venture has been an interesting experience and very rewarding in many ways. Eventually we hope to prepare a Spanish brochure similar to the English one.

United States of America

President Dwight D. Eisenhower hailed the the 15th annual observance of Worldwide Bible Reading and urged the "faithful reading of Scriptures" to provide "the courage and strength required for the living of our time", in a letter sent to the *American Bible Society*, sponsor of the programme.

President Eisenhower, honorary chairman of the board of sponsors, said he would join the observance in which millions of people in 50 nations read the identical pre-selected passages of Scripture on each day between Thanksgiving Day (November 27) and Christmas.

The programme had its beginnings in 1943 when a lonely marine on Guadacanal wrote to his parents suggesting that they maintain a spiritual bond each day by reading the same Bible passage. When the American Bible Society learned of this, it prepared lists for the Armed Forces and, the following year, decided to broaden its scope by publishing lists and distributing them widely through church, schools, hospitals, libraries, etc. The reading lists are now published in a dozen languages and in braille for the blind.

The theme for 1958, "The Book That Lives". was adopted by the Society to emphasize the continuing role of the Bible in helping mankind to solve its problems in an ever-changing world.

Approximately 202,000,000 of the reading lists have been distributed during the course of the past 14 years and an additional 17,000,000 in 1958.

*

In connection with the Baptist Year of Evangelism during 1959, the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has ordered one million Gospels of John in a special cover to be distributed widely by members of Southern Baptist churches. The words "New Life for You", which embody the theme of this special year of Evangelism, appear together with an attractive design on the front cover. The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will accomplish the distribution of these books through the 46 Southern Baptist bookstores.

As a special help to the Southern Baptist State Secretaries of Evangelism, who are promoting the distri-

bution and effective use of these books, the American Bible Society National Distribution Department has supplied advance copies of this Gospel and a specially-prepared folder (with order form carrying addresses of Southern Baptist bookstores) entitled "The Power of the Portion". They were mailed to every Southern Baptist church in the U.S.A. and distributed to fall conferences.

The A.B.S. has also published a special edition of 50,000 Gospel of John in the King James Version, for the Campus Crusade for Christ in Los Angeles, California. These had a special cover with the title "St. John, a message for the collegian to-day". The Campus Crusade for Christ has started distributing these on college and university campuses in the U.S.A. and is hopeful of using substantial numbers of additional Scripture portions in the future for such distribution. This group will also be active in distributing foreign-language Scriptures to international students studying in the country.

In addition, the Society has produced a Christmas edition of 1,100,000 copies of the Gospel according to St. Luke, King James Version, for distribution in the U.S.A. The attractive cover was also prepared in jacket form to accommodate all who wished to have the Christmas Gospel in the Revised Standard Version.

*

Various Bible distribution campaigns have been encouraged recently by the American Bible Society in different areas of the U.S.A. The "Bible in Every Home" project of the South Atlantic district is finding a good response from several pastors of the District. Particularly notable among the reports received is that of the Rev. Warwick Aiken, Jr., who led his people of St. Luke Episcopal Church, Spray, N. Carolina, in a house-to-house visitation of the entire town. "We have now concluded our 'Bible-in-Every-Home' project for the city of Spray (population 5,546). We were surprised at the number of homes that had no Bibles and were also surprised at the number of persons who, though they had Bibles, wanted still another for others when they saw the fine edition that you publish .... Our people truly profited by the campaign and we trust it will have its lasting good in the community .... We purchased enough copies of your folder, 'The Bible in the Home' to be able to leave one at each house in the city, and we believe that it was a worthwhile addition. Whether they bought a Bible or not, the folder was some tangible reminder left with them to do something about their Bible reading ...." Two hundred Bibles were thus distributed in this City by the members of St. Luke's Church. This Bible-less homes campaign is being offered to several other communities in the district in the hope that all of the churches in a community will undertake the project co-operatively.

In its endeavour to get the Bible to all Bible-less people in Chicago, the Chicago Bible Society, which is associated with the A.B.S., is co-operating in a programme of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago to reach "newcomers" to the city, particularly people from abroad. In this effort, the Church Federation provides financial help to churches through the metropolis enabling them to carry on a programme of service to newcomers, including: classes for aliens, legal advice, child care classes, etc. Through the staff working at these centres a complete Bible is offered by the Chicago Bible Society at one-half cost, the Church Federation and the Chicago Bible Society sharing the remainder of the cost. The need for such a programme in Chicago is quite obvious, and Secretary Osberg is confident that this will result in serving many people who move into deteriorated and low-rent areas of the city. Secretary Osberg

reports : "The normal pattern for many of these newcomers is to settle in a run-down furnished rooming house. Jobs are difficult to get and the man's salary is usually so low that his wife must also work. This is the type of situation where the Bible Society can be of real help to people who would otherwise not receive the Scriptures."

At the invitation of Secretary Langham, Dr. Samuel Nelson and the students of the Penzotti Institute, conducted a "field programme" of Scripture distribution in Laredo, Texas, several days in the spring of last year. All of the churches serving the Spanish-speaking people of Laredo co-operated in the effort. In all, there were 35 volunteer workers who were assigned to call at 1,000 homes within 110 blocks, this representing about 10 per cent of the city. Approximately 2,200 Scripture volumes were distributed, principally illustrated Gospels and inexpensive New Testaments. Arrangements were made so that even after Dr. Nelson and the Penzotti Institute students returned to Mexico City (their tourist cards having been renewed), the programme of Scripture distribution could continue under local leadership.

*

Now that the set of New Testament illustrations has been completed and met with a favourable response, the A.B.S. Translations Department is preparing a set of Old Testament illustrations for use in missionary editions. It is proposed to have 75 full-page and 75 vignette illustrations prepared.

The Society is also planning a set of special illustrations by a Chinese artist, for possible use in Chinese missionary editions, to be printed in Hongkong.

United Bible Societies

The U.B.S. Translations Sub-Committee held its last session at Jordans (England) at the end of October. Most of the time was spent in checking the drafts of standard lists of reference and of section headings which the translations departments of the American Bible Society, British & Foreign Bible Society and Netherland Bible Society hope to produce jointly under U.B.S. imprint later this year. The basic material had been prepared by the A.B.S. Final arrangements were also agreed upon for the publication under U.B.S. auspices of a book in which Professor Hulst, one of the collaborators of the Netherlands Bible Society, has collated the data assembled by the Dutch Revision Committee on the translation of difficult Old Testament passages.

Two other documents were also cleared for publication : a table of biblical weights and measures and a document listing all the formal and obvious Old Testament quotations in the New Testament and indicating their similarities and dissimilarities.

All these documents, like any others which may be published under U.B.S. imprint, are primarily designed for Bible translators with a view to helping them in their task and saving them from long hours of research work on technical points.

It was also agreed that a document on biblical flora and fauna, prepared with a view to conveying the necessary basic technical information and at the same time the significance in the biblical context of plants and animals referred to, would be of great help to translators and that appropriate steps should be contemplated for the preparation of such a document.

Finally, agreement was reached regarding discrepancies in the names given by various Societies to languages in which Scriptures have been translated and a unified list accepted.

Audio Visual Aid News

Films

For a few months already the Netherlands Bible Society has been making use of a new film for its promotion work, issued under the title of "Where Heaven Sang". This film, which was made by the mission order of the White Fathers in Palestine, lasts about one hour and a half. The N.B.S. undertakes to show this splendid colour film unabridged to the Protestant section of the Dutch population.

The photography does not conceal the fact that we are living in the 20th century, but at the same time the new Israel is connected with the old Israel in a surprising manner : the present shifts into the past almost imperceptibly. The spectator feels himself to be personally concerned : people, landscape and situations constantly remind him of Jesus' life on earth. He sees a boy at work in a carpenter's shop at Nazareth ; he is invited to a modern wedding at Cana and in contemporary fishermen on the lake of Galilee he recognises the simple fishermen from among whom Jesus recruited the major part of His disciples.

*

"Bearer of the Book" is the title of a new 28-minute sound motion picture in colour on the world-wide work of the American Bible Society, highlighting the Society's distribution of the Scriptures in many tongues and many lands.

The picture starts in the beautiful canyon country of northeast Arizona, ancestral land of the great Navajo tribe ; from there to the Indian people living around lake Atitlan in Guatemala, colourful and picturesque land of Central America ; the viewer is then transported to Africa, where Scriptures from the Bible Society are helping to shape the lives of Congolese boys in the Congo where Protestant missions are educating half a million children ; then back to the continent of South America. Here one learns that even with the great increase of Scripture distribution over the last 10 years, the Bible Societies cannot keep up with the great demand for Bibles in this land of evangelistic opportunity. Finally, some aspects of the work of the Bible Society in the U.S.A. are shown as the Scriptures are brought to neglected areas and to people in need, particularly to the blind.

Filmstrips

The British and Foreign Bible Society has produced the following filmstrips during recent months :

Bolivian Byways (colour—40 frames)

This set of slides, with script by Dr. N. J. Cockburn, presents a panorama of the work among Quechua and Ayoreo Indians. They are excellent pictures from the high Andes and Lake Titicaca, semi-forested plains and grasslands, the flowers and tropical trees of this ancient land of the Incas—a beauty contrasting sadly with the lives of the people but which are relieved by the evangelistic work of the Church, aided by the Bible Society.

With the Mapuche Indians (colour—44 frames)

From a land 2,800 miles long and no more than 150 miles wide, the "Mad Geography" of Chile is illustrated in another fine set of pictures taken by Dr. Cockburn. The part played by the Bible Society in supplying Scriptures to the Araucanian

Indians is depicted against a background of history, customs and scenic beauty.

The Land of the New Testament (colour —44 frames)

Another beautiful set of slides, with script by Dr. Cockburn, giving information about the ancient holy places of Palestine and the religious bodies who live there. The pictures are linked with events in the life of our Lord, with full quotations from the New Testament.

The Light has come (colour—41 frames)

These pictures were taken on an itinerary of over 10,000 miles in Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Portuguese E. Africa. The script gives moving stories of work among lepers and the blind, with some outstanding pictures of the arrival of the Bemba Bible at Kitwe.

The Book on the Barbary Coast (colour —40 frames)

These pictures provide a record from the land of sheikhs and palm trees, of great cities and ports and the holy towns of Islam. Pictures and script describe a journey with colporteurs in North Africa, giving details of their life and incidents from their experiences.

Radio

Every Thursday during the month of July, 1958, people in Norway could listen to a new kind of radio programme : for the first time a Bible study group was "on the air".

The leader of religious broadcasting for the whole of Norway asked the Norwegian Bible Society to arrange this programme, because of the rapid growth of the Bible groups in the country and because such a programme would catch the interest of the listeners more than hearing one man speaking about a text, and because the listeners could be active participants in such Bible study. Under the leadership of the Rev. Sverre Smaadahl, a group of six young men and women with some experience in group-work planned and broadcast four programmes of thirty minutes each. Four very short texts from different chapters in Isaiah were chosen for the study and a study outline on these texts was prepared, to be used in planning the script but also for the use of listeners during the study. This outline was a "recipe" which was followed closely, the purpose of which was to make the group and the listeners work with the text in order to find the original and the present-day significance of the text.

The group turned out to be a very "natural" one, in spite of the many rehearsals and the existence of the script—thanks to the study outline ! More than 600 people wrote and asked for the study outline before the programme was given, and the many letters which the Bible Society received afterwards showed that this way of Bible study on the radio attracts great interest and makes listeners active participants in the Bible study.

As a by-product of all this, the Bible Society has acquired the names and addresses of a number of persons whom we can now contact and encourage to begin a Bible study group of their own. In order to be able to develop these contacts in a fruitful way, all the listeners who asked for the study outline were also given a short introduction in Bible study.

*

The American Bible Society, in cooperation with the Broadcasting and Film Commission, produced six fifteen-minute radio programmes in 1958 under the general title : "Let there be light". These programmes were distributed to more than 300 radio stations across the country during the annual Bible Reading Programme.

Exhibitions

The Swiss Bible Society has been sending out on loan recently a travelling exhibition (mentioned briefly on page 39), which is composed mainly of material put together by the Methodist Church in Rorschach at the time of Bible Week, which that Church observed in the Spring of 1958. It met with such an encouraging response then, that it was decided that it should be made available in other areas. The exhibition was therefore put at the disposal of the Swiss Bible Society, which undertook to have it fitted up as a travelling exhibitition and to organise its loan to other centres.

The exhibition consists of four large and 22 small panels, as well as 10 glass show-cases, the material being arranged under four headings. It can be set up either in one hall or in several smaller rooms, the total area required being 100-150 square metres. The four headings referred to are : 1. Origin and history of the Bible (copies of old manuscripts, the Bible in the Middle Ages and at the time of the Reformation, the translation of the Bible into many languages, the appearance of the Bible today); 2. The Land and People of the Bible (geography of Palestine, the important places in biblical history, the people of the Holy Land) ; 3. The Bible in the works of great artists (woodcuts, drawings, sculpture and paintings by Dürer, Riemenschneider, Baumberger, Pillod, etc.) 4. The Power of the Bible (the unity in the many voices of the biblical witnesses, the Bible in the opinion of well-known and unknown personalities, the meaning and use of the Holy Scriptures).

Scripture Recordings

The year 1957 marked the introduction by the American Bible Society of the "Finger-Fono", a small hand operated phonograph to be supplied with Scripture recordings for certain tribes and peoples where the rate of literacy is very low. The first experiments with the Navaho Indians in the United States had not been anticipated in the original plans, but the announcement of the Finger-Fono brought immediate results from those at work among the Navahos. Under the direction of the Rev. Richard West, secretary for the Society's work with headquarters in Denver, Colorado, 1,600 machines and 9,600 records in Navaho have been effectively distributed. Results have been so encouraging that urgent requests have come for Finger-Fonos for other tribes. Five hundred machines and 3,000 Apache records are now ready. Papago and Hopi records are in production.

The second field of experiment was Liberia with records in Gio and Kpelle. First reports indicate the gratitude of hundreds of pre-literate Liberians for whom the Bible has suddenly become the Book that lives.

There have been problems, of course, not the least of which was the difficulty in securing adequate tape recordings from the field from which understandable records of high quality could be made. The American Bible Society has now added to its staff Mr. Richard Crane, a man competent in recording and electronics, who will take a high fidelity recorder to each field. Mr. Crane is now in Mexico.

Thus far recordings have been made in Gio, Kpelle, Marathi, Mazahua, Kekchi, Spanish and Navaho. Present plans call for records in 100 additional languages within the next three years. A set of 36 passages (18 records) is envisaged for each language, but trials will first be made in each case with a set of six records, which will help to determine whether additional records would be required.

Book Reviews

Talking about the Bible

By ROBERT C. WALTON, published by the S.C.M. Press, London, price 2s. 6d.

Mainly directed to young people this booklet is written in a brisk and original style that is likely to stimulate the interest of the reader while at the same time giving briefly, in 32 pages, the basic facts about the compilation and contents of the Bible. The author continually relates his theme to the life and experience of young people today, comparing Bible study with the work of a detective, examining both outside and inside evidence in order to discover the truth. Each chapter concludes with two or three questions which cannot be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', but oblige the reader to think out his own answer after a reading of the relevant section of the Bible and with the help provided by the author's lively approach. This book should be particularly useful for young people's study groups.

6000 Jahre und ein Buch (6000 Years and One Book)

By G. S. WEGENER, published by Onken Verlag, Kassel, Germany.

This is another best-seller on the Bible, issued this time by the Baptist Publishing House of Germany. The first edition of 8,000 was sold out within a month.

In a direct and easy style, the author follows the story of the Bible through the centuries from the time immediately following the Flood to its world-wide distribution today, and the present manuscript discoveries which make possible the more accurate version. The first chapters cover the geographical, historical and cultural conditions in which the Book was written. They are followed by chapters on the history of the Book itself, its formation, its translation, in the languages of the world. The closing sections describe the search for textual evidence and ancient manuscripts including the story of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

In 250 pages one cannot expect anything like a detailed treatment of so many involved subjects. Inaccuracies are bound to occur here and there. But one remains amazed at the amount of useful information which the lay reader can find in this book and there is no doubt that such a publication may greatly help the contemporary man to understand better what the Bible is about, while it is replaced in its historical context not as the text book of the theologians but as the book which conveys a message intended for all men.

The book is beautifully edited and illustrated with many drawings and photographs which emphasize that conquest of the world by the Book. Translations are in preparation in eight countries.

Contributors to this issue

THE REV. ALF HAUGE is General Secretary of the Norwegian Bible Society.

MR. J. J. KIJNE is Translation Secretary of the Netherlands Bible Society.

MR. R. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN is Secretary for Youth Work of the Netherlands Bible Society.

THE REV. R. T. TAYLOR is Secretary for Ways and Means of the American Bible Society.

THE REV. P. R. THOMAS is Secretary for Auxiliaries of the B.F.B.S.

THE REV. B. J. TIDBALL is Youth and Education Secretary of the B.F.B.S.

MR. P. MAHANTY was General Secretary of the Bible Society of India and Ceylon at the time of his death on November 29, 1958.

THE REV. WILLIAM STEWART is Vice-President of the Bible Society of India and Ceylon.

MEMBER SOCIETIES

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450, Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y., U.S.A.
Cables: Biblehouse, New York.

AUSTRIAN BIBLE COMMITTEE,
Breitegasse 8, Vienna VII, Austria.
Cables: Bibelhaus, Wien.

BELGIAN BIBLE SOCIETY,
34, rue d'Arlon, Brussels, Belgium.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA AND CEYLON,
No. A/1 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore 1, South India.
Cables: Testaments, Bangalore.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF BRAZIL.
Caixas Postais 73 e 454, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Cables: Escrituras, Rio de Janeiro.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY,
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